



Structural DNA nanotechnology

a.k.a. DNA carpentry

a.k.a. DNA self-assembly

slides © 2021, David Doty

ECS 232: Theory of Molecular Computation, UC Davis

Building things



Ljubljana Marshes Wheel. 5k years old



Newgrange, Ireland. 5.2k years old

Building things by hand: use tools! Great for scale of $10^{\pm 2} \times$ 



Ljubljana Marshes Wheel. 5k years old

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Building things by hand: use tools! Great for scale of $10^{\pm 2} \times$ 

Building tools that build things: specify target object with a computer program





Ljubljana Marshes Wheel. 5k years old

Building things



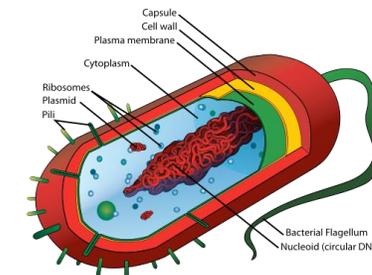
Newgrange, Ireland. 5.2k years old

Building things by hand: use tools! Great for scale of $10^{\pm 2} \times$ 

Building tools that build things: specify target object with a computer program

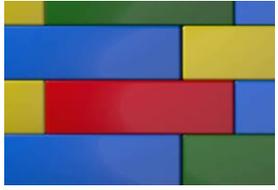


Programming things to build themselves: for building in small wet places where our hands or tools can't reach



Mariana Ruiz Villarreal

Things that build themselves

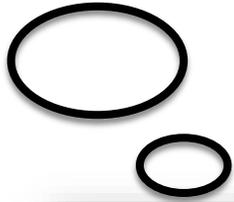
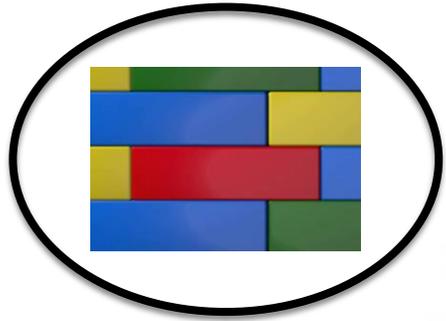


I want to stick below
blue & yellow and
above blue & green



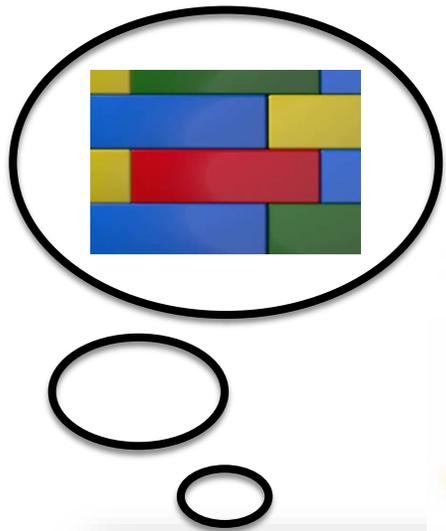
Our topic: self-assembling molecules that compute as they build themselves

Things that build themselves



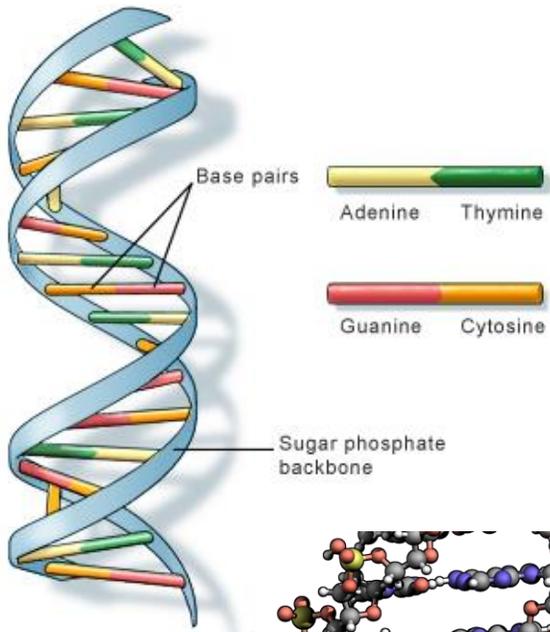
Our topic: self-assembling molecules that compute as they build themselves

Things that build themselves

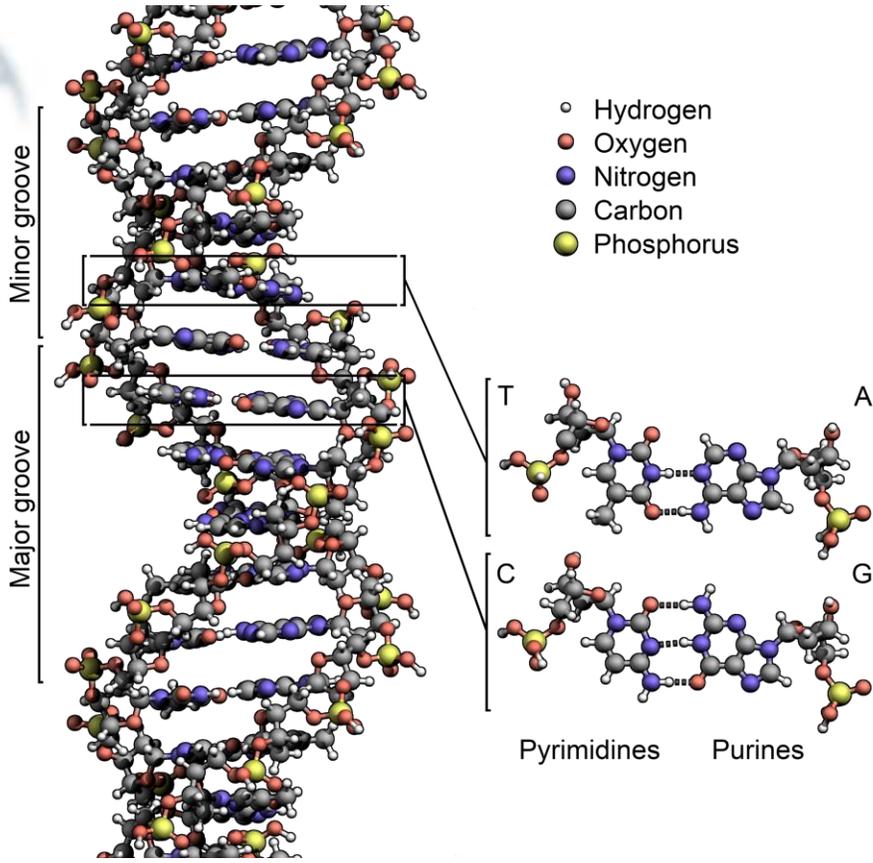


Our topic: self-assembling molecules that compute as they build themselves

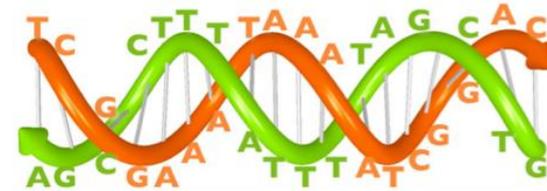
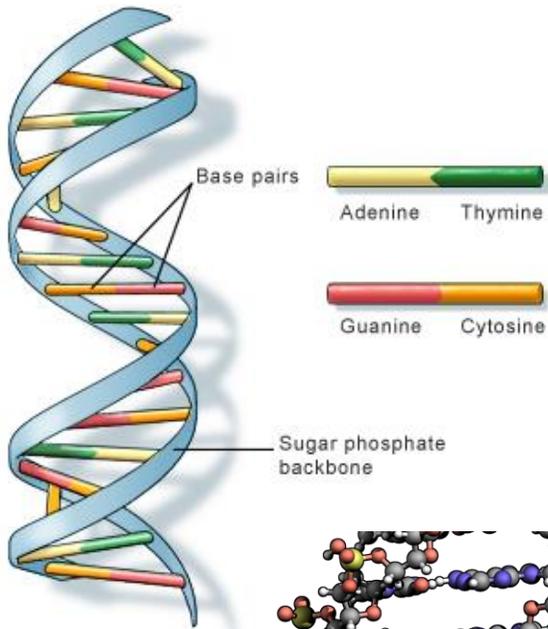
DNA as a building material



U.S. National Library of Medicine



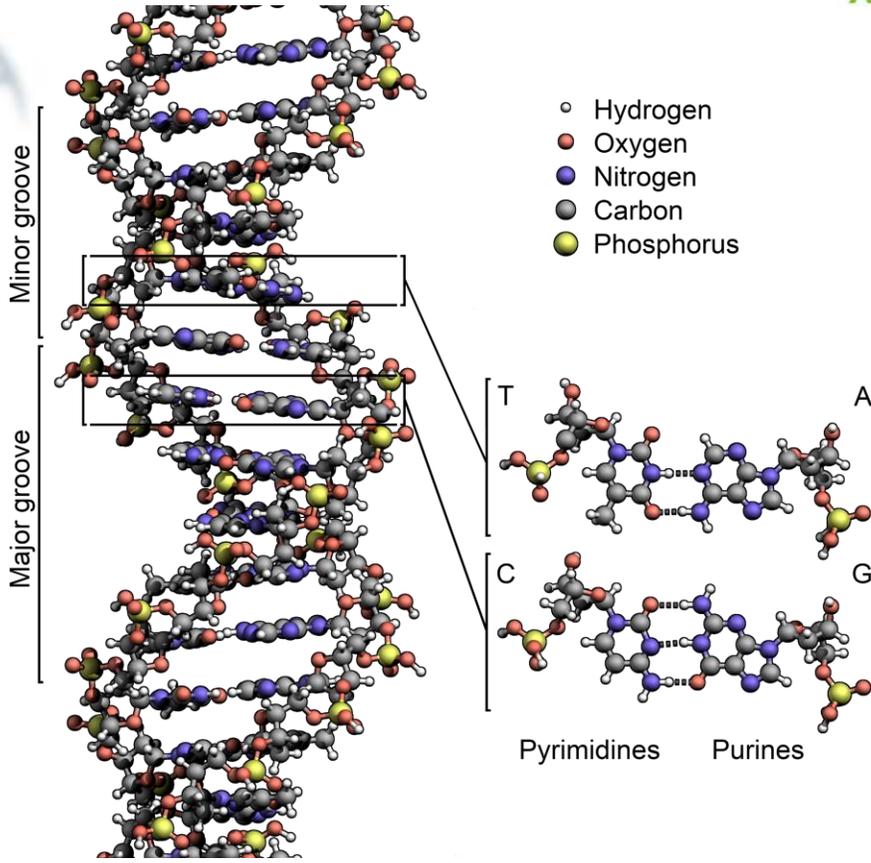
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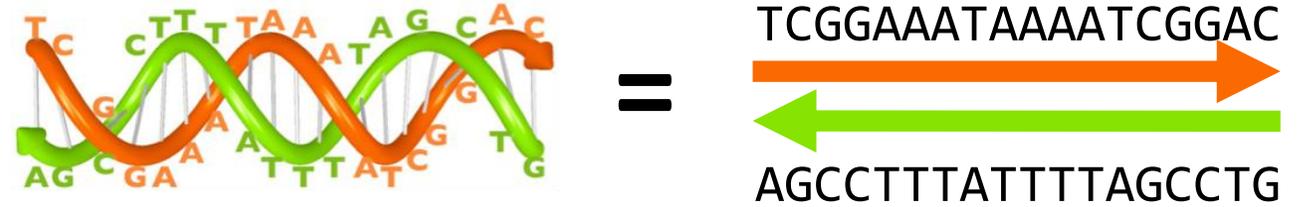
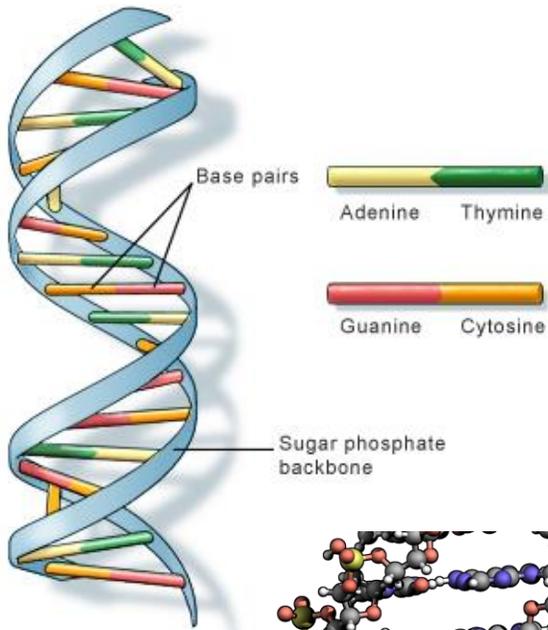
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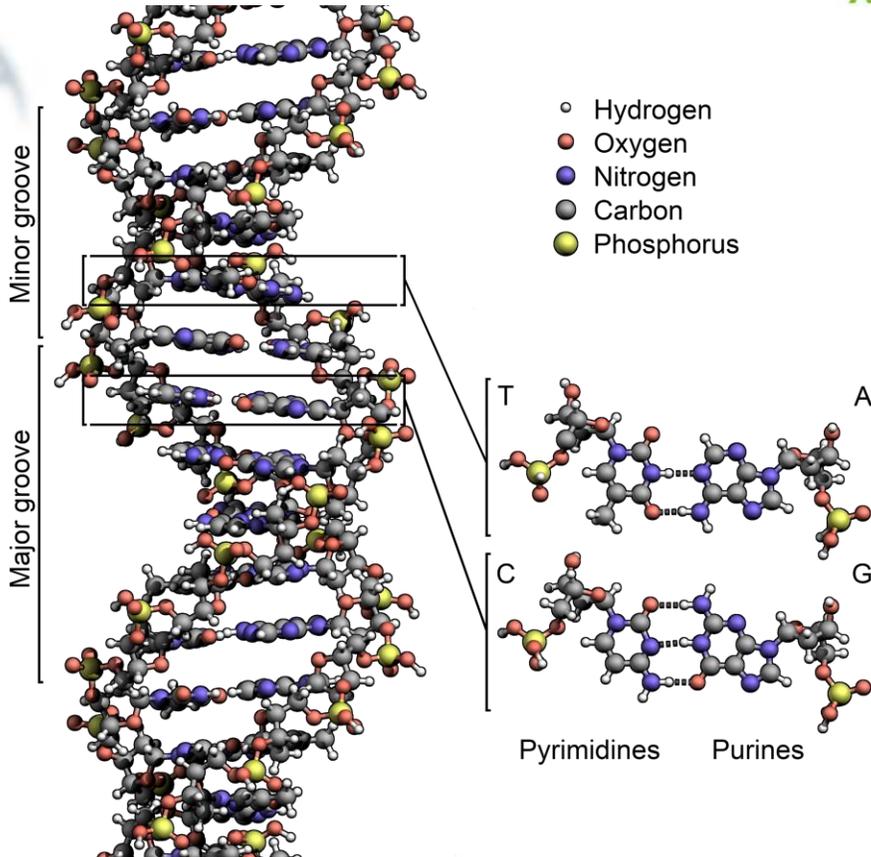
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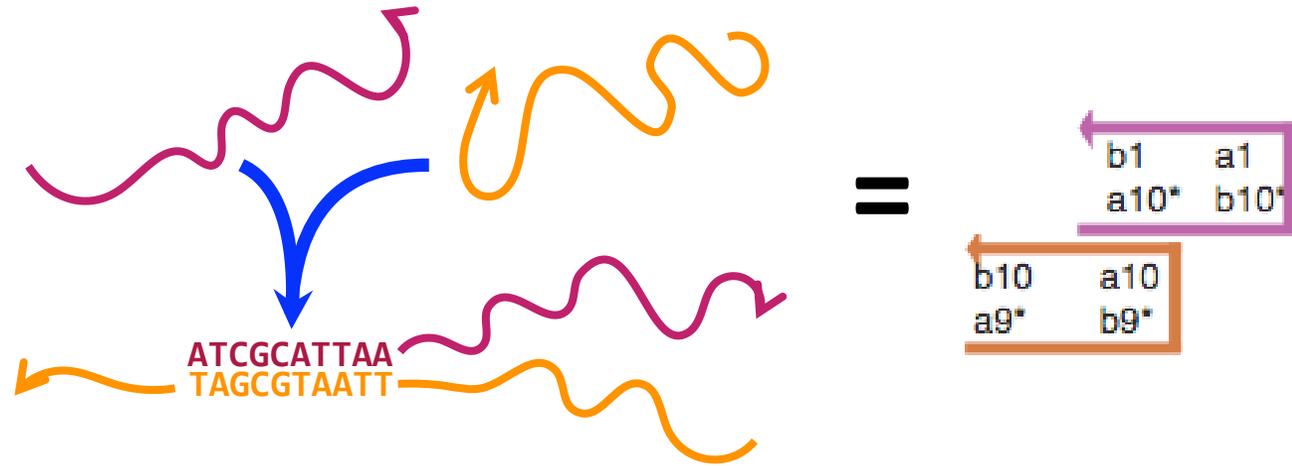
DNA as a building material



U.S. National Library of Medicine



DNA strands bind even if only *part* of strands are complementary:



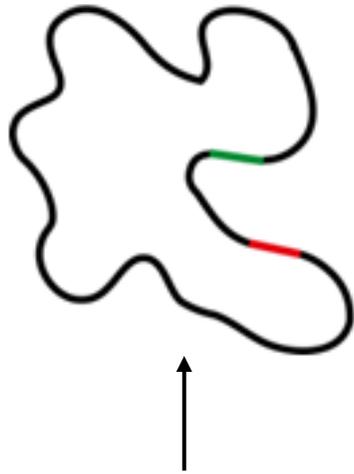
DNA origami

Paul Rothemund

Folding DNA to create nanoscale shapes and patterns

Nature 2006

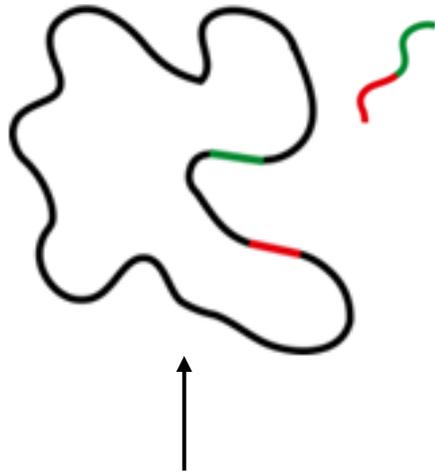
DNA origami



↑
scaffold DNA strand
(M13mp18 bacteriophage virus)

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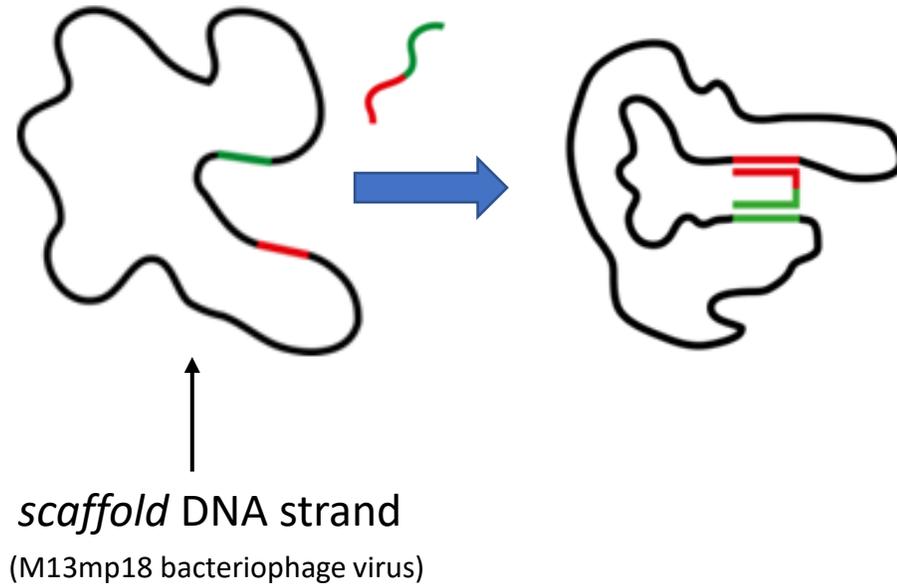
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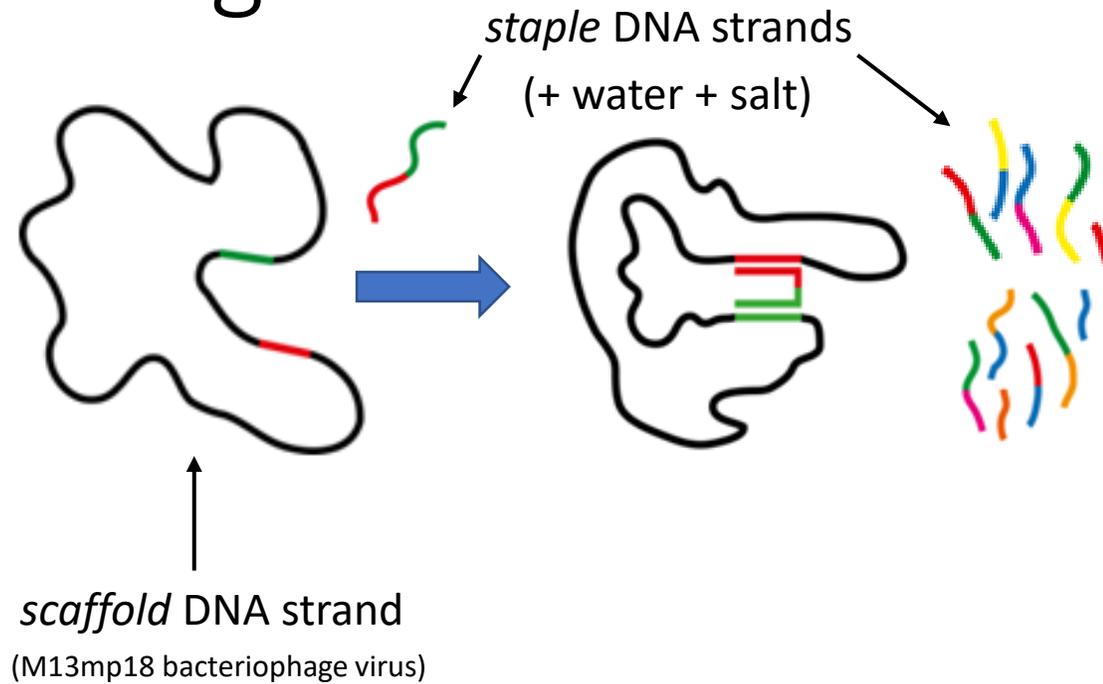
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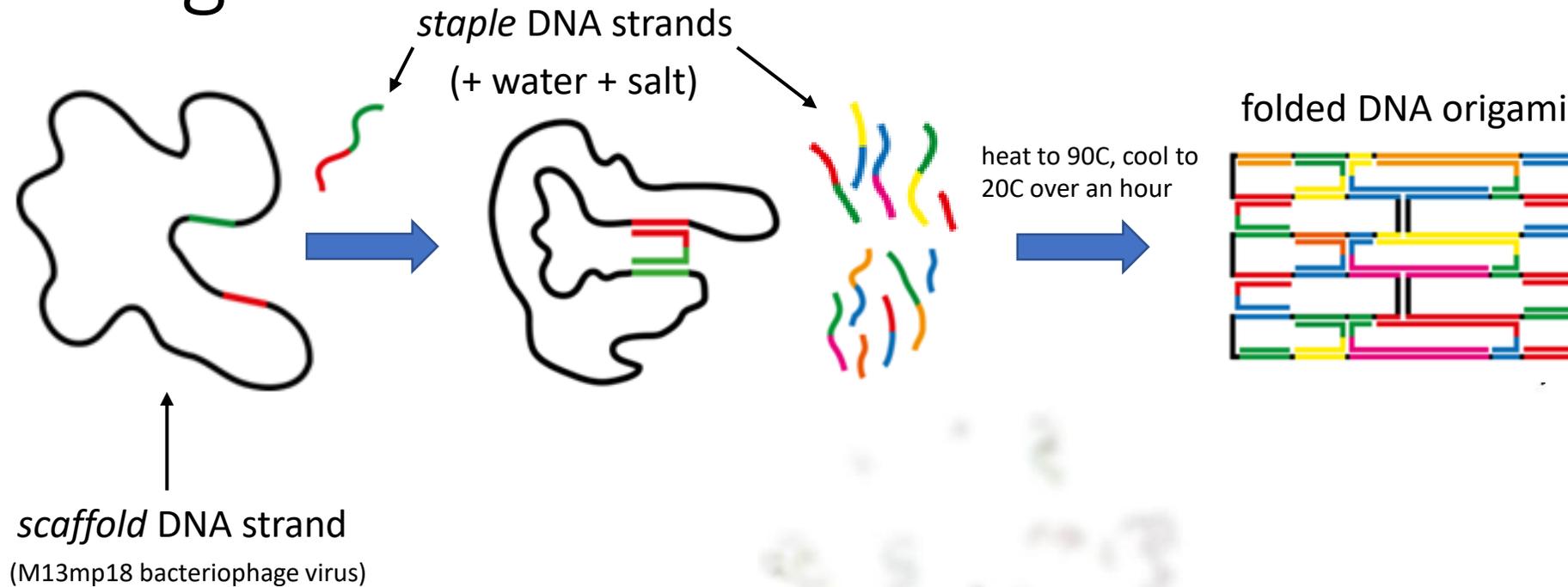
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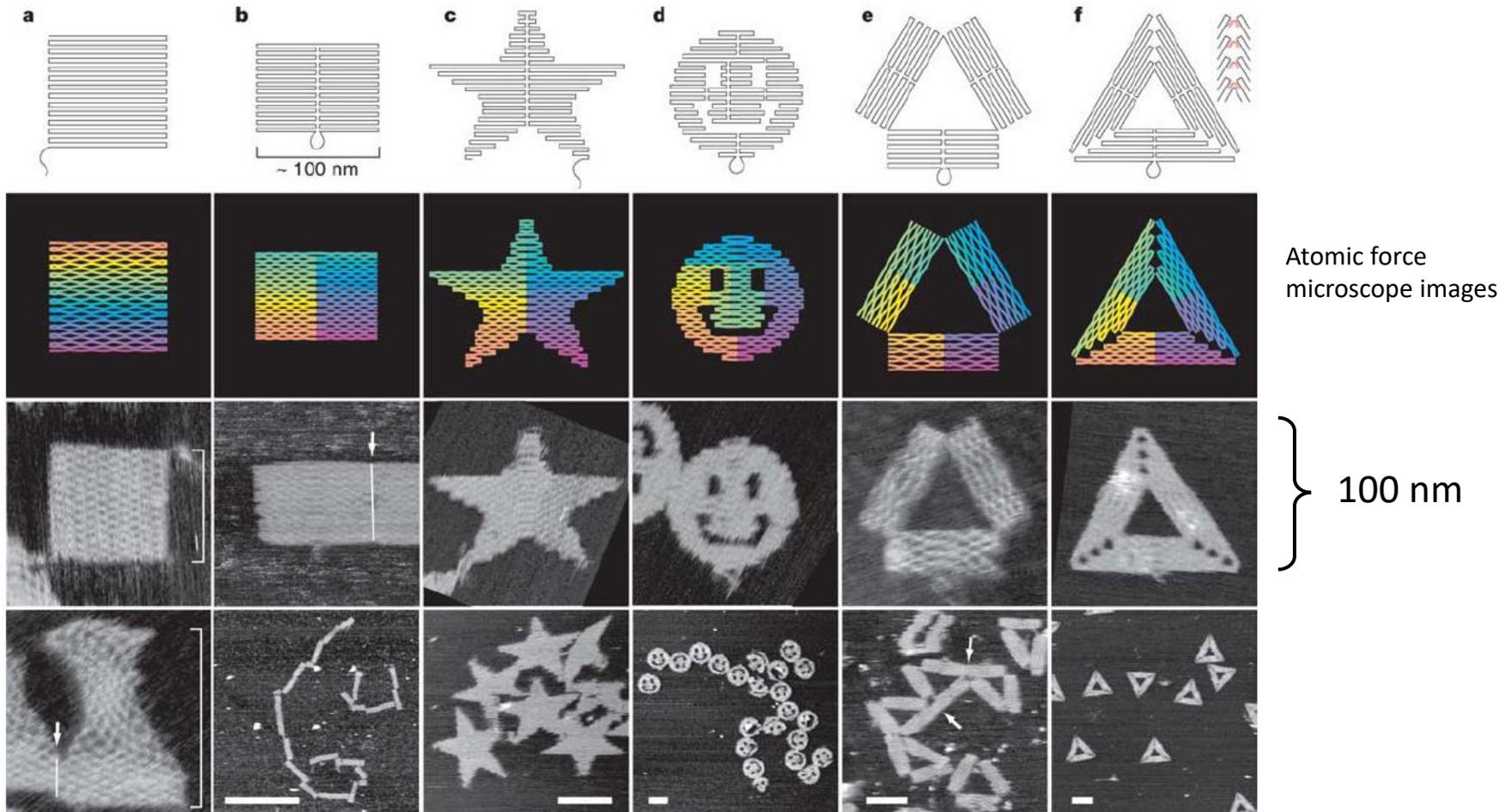
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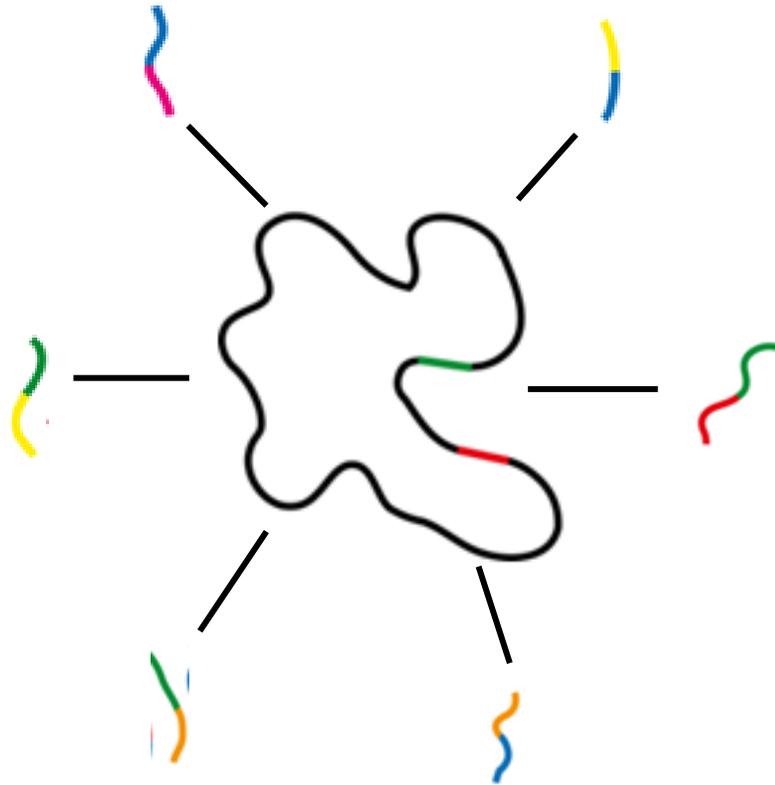
Nature 2006



Binding graphs

DNA origami: **star graph**

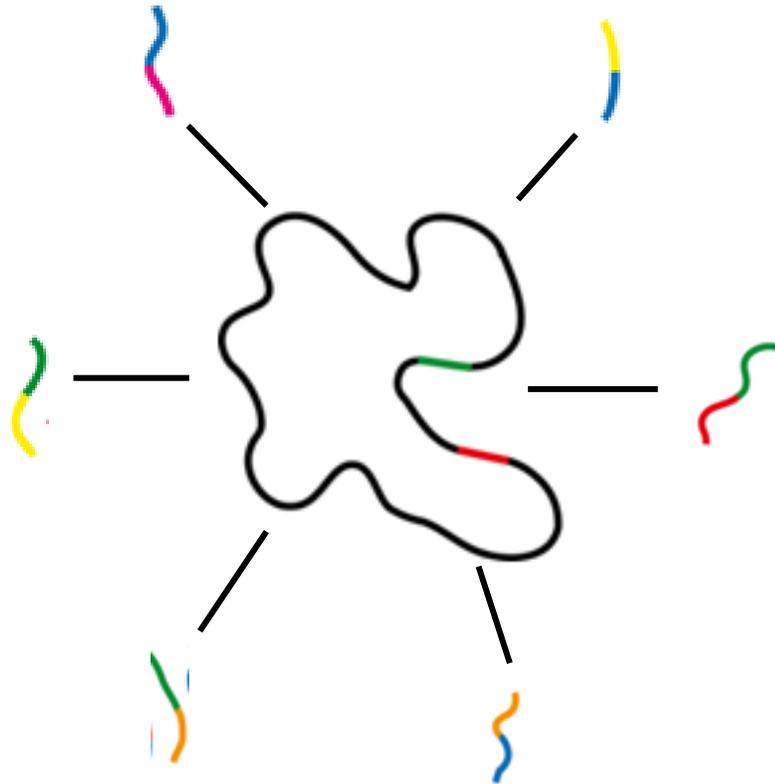
(all binding is between staples and scaffold)



Binding graphs

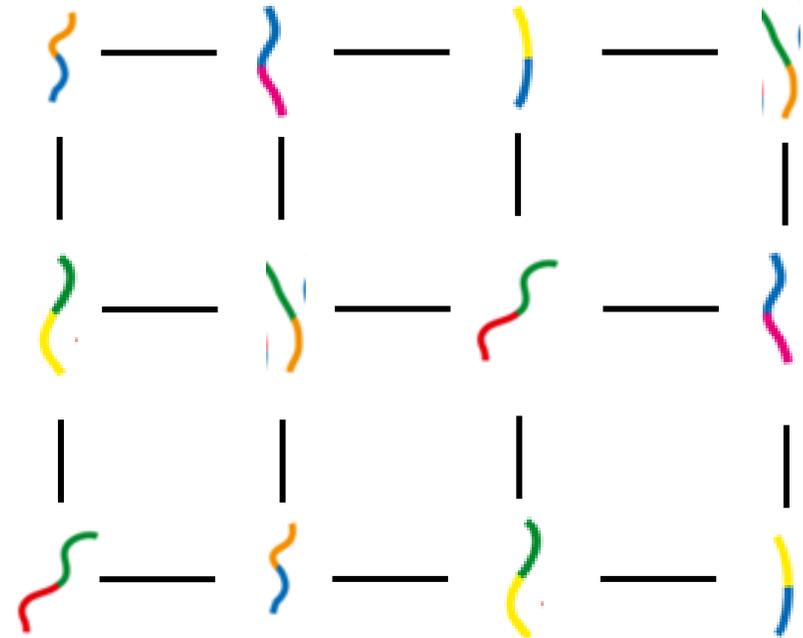
DNA origami: **star graph**

(all binding is between staples and scaffold)



DNA tiles: **grid graph**

(tiles bind to each other, each has ≤ 4 neighbors)

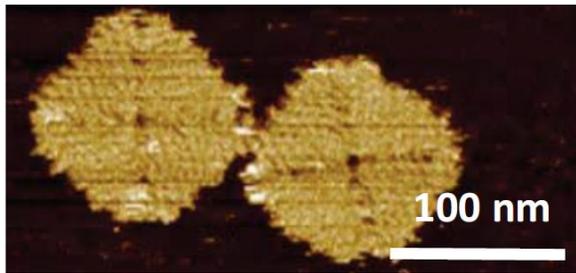
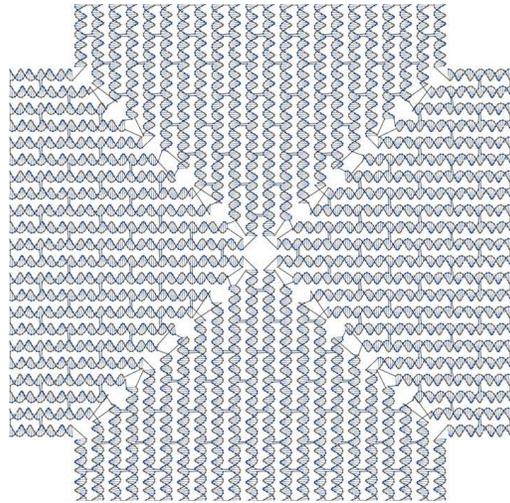


DNA tile self-assembly

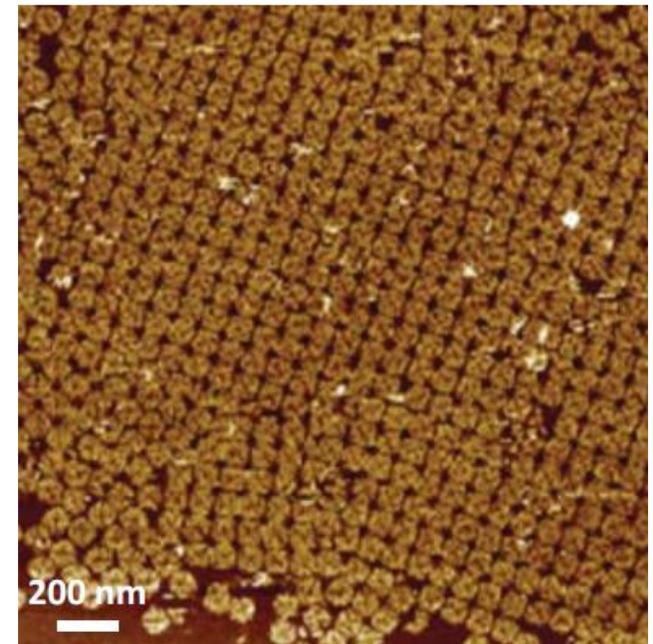
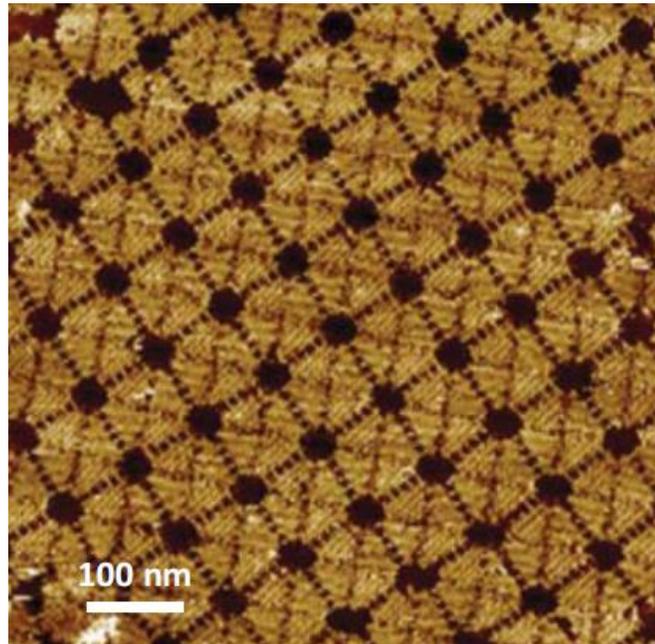
DNA tile self-assembly

monomers (“tiles” made from DNA) bind into a crystal lattice

tile

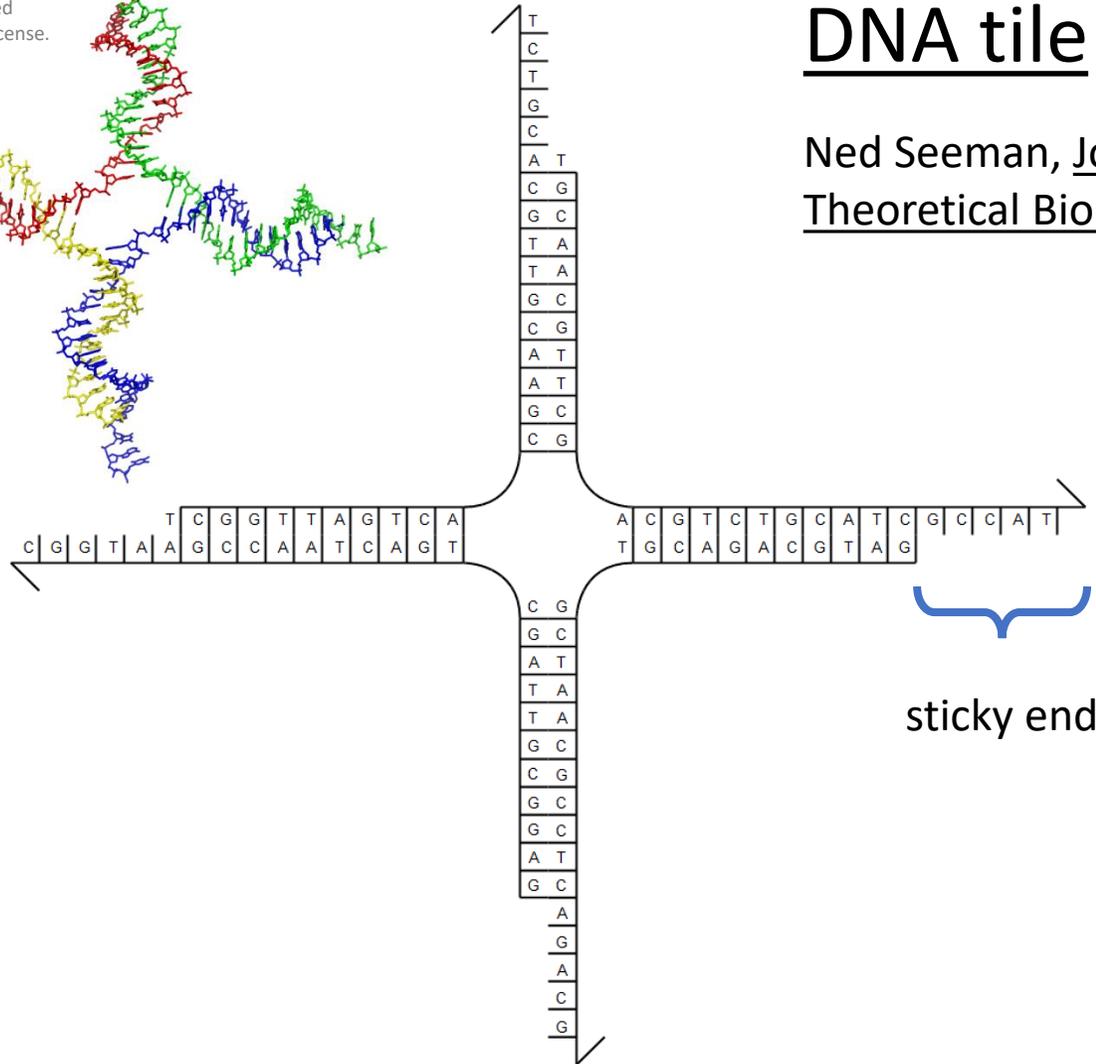
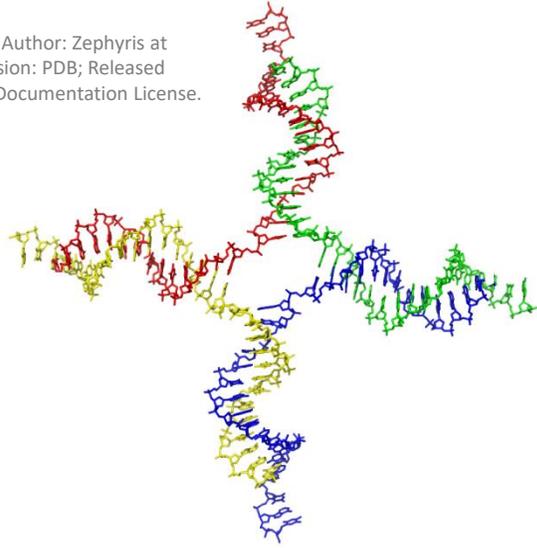


lattice



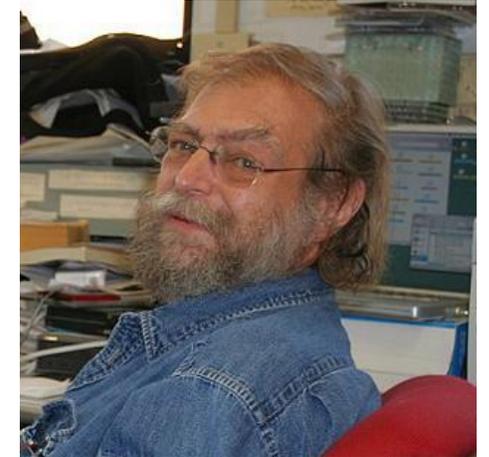
Practice of DNA tile self-assembly

Source:en.wikipedia; Author: Zephyris at en.wikipedia; Permission: PDB; Released under the GNU Free Documentation License.



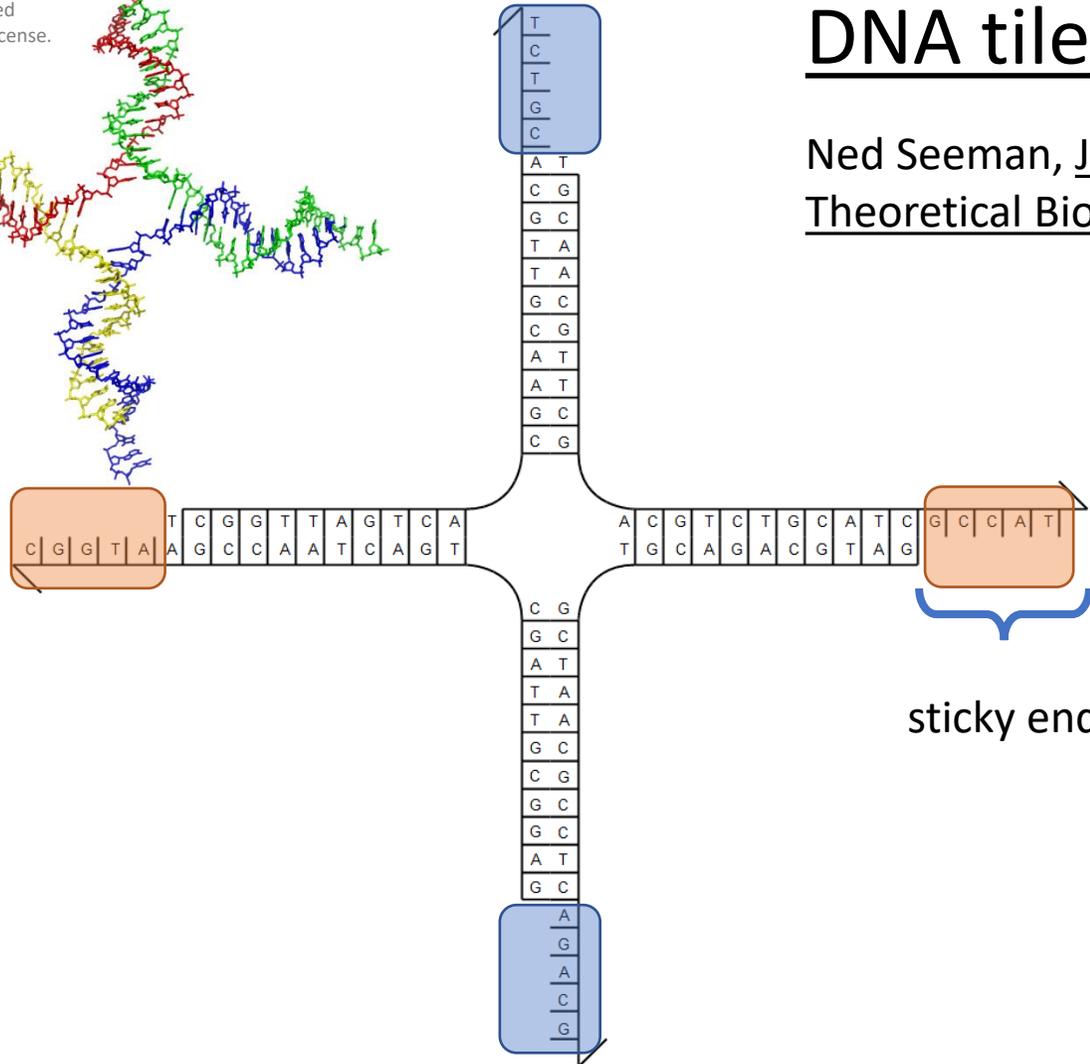
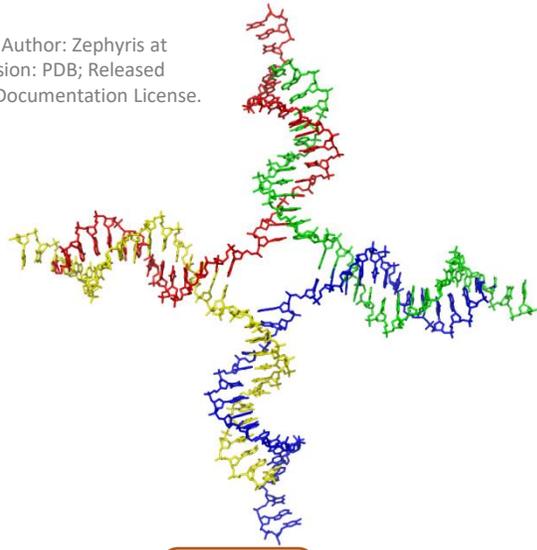
DNA tile

Ned Seeman, Journal of Theoretical Biology 1982



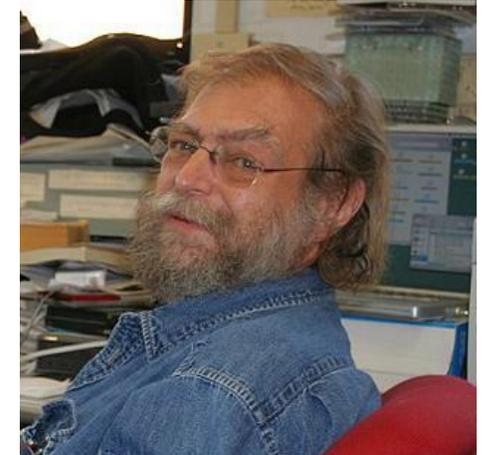
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Source:en.wikipedia; Author: Zephyris at en.wikipedia; Permission: PDB; Released under the GNU Free Documentation License.



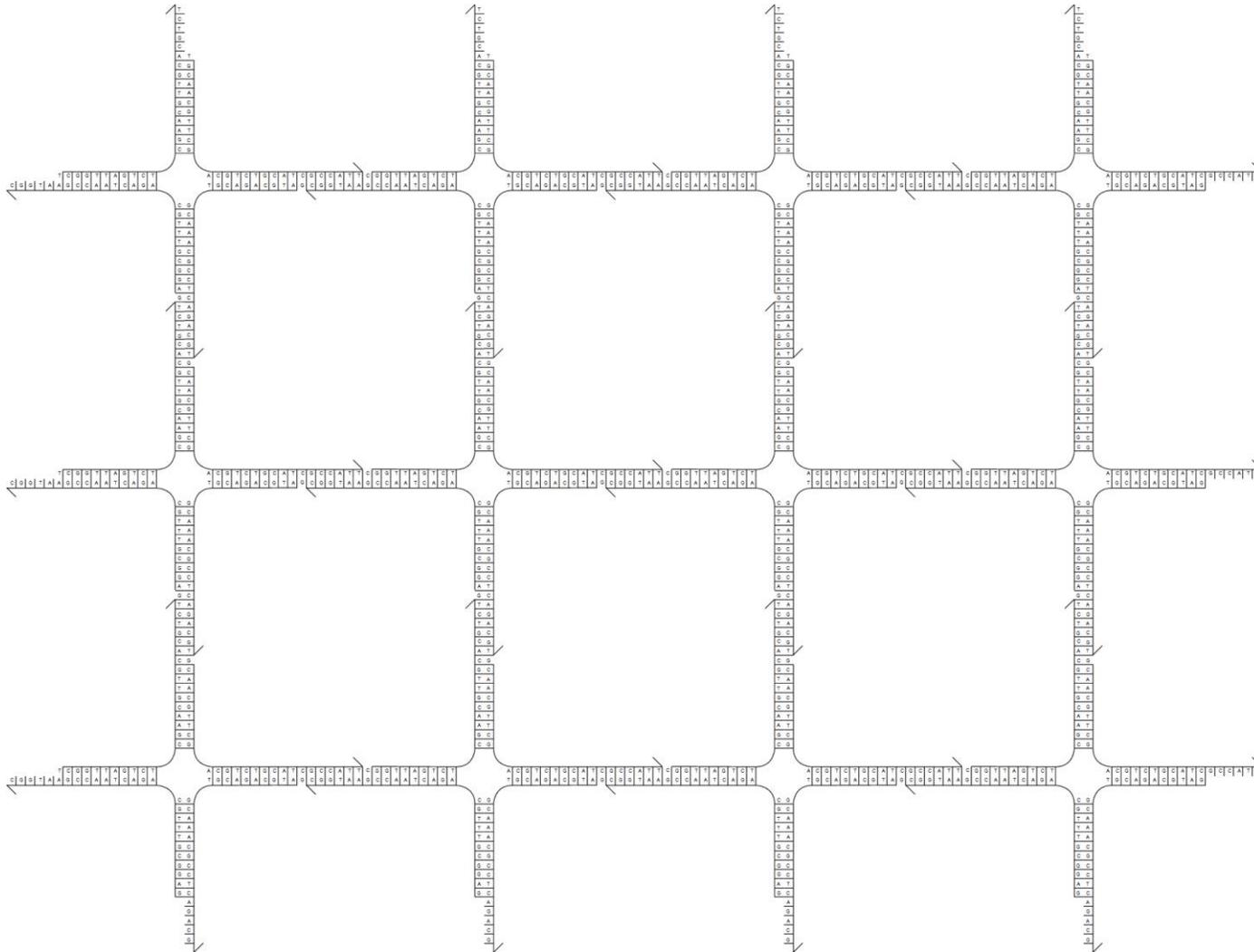
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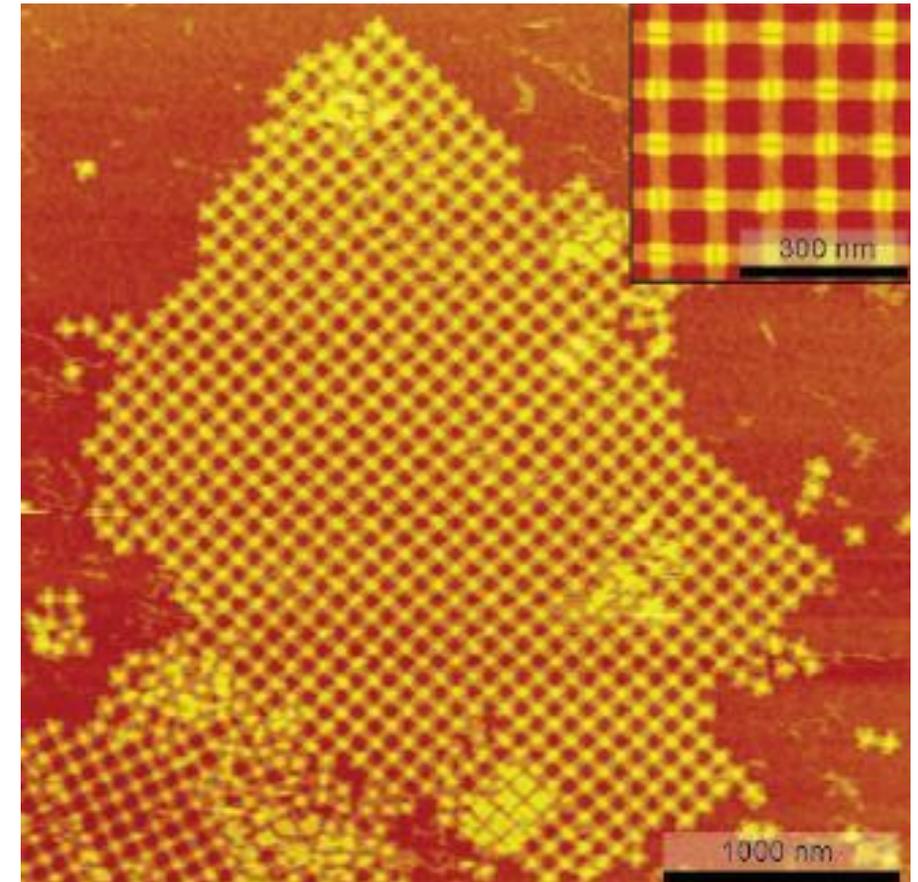


Practice of DNA tile self-assembly

Place many copies of DNA tile in solution...



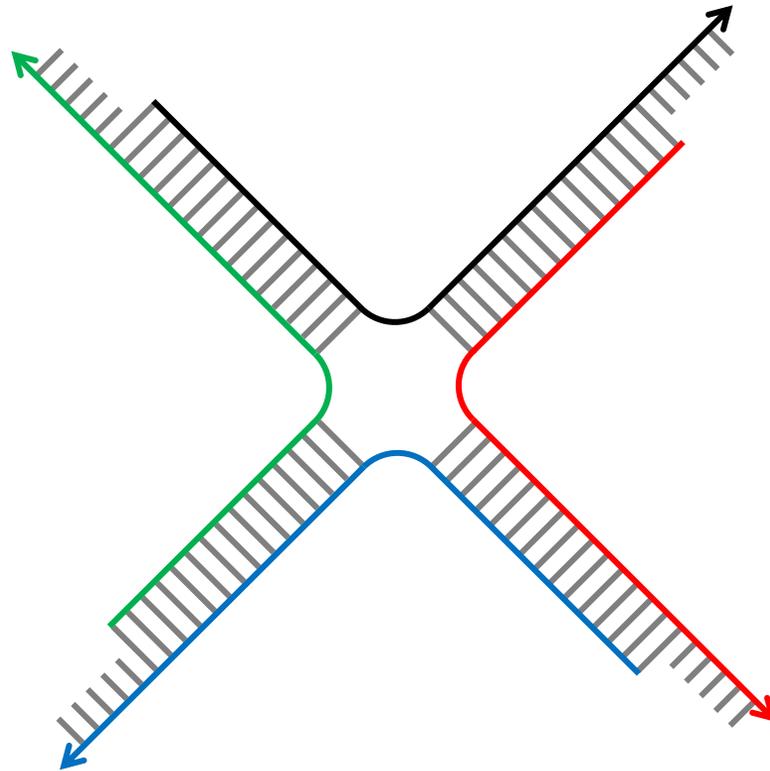
(not the same tile motif in this image)



Liu, Zhong, Wang, Seeman, *Angewandte Chemie* 2011

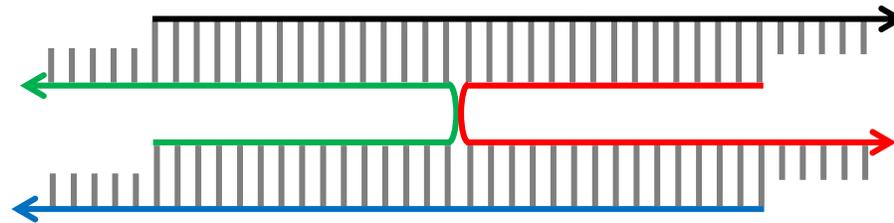
Practice of DNA tile self-assembly

What really happens in practice to Holliday junction (“base stacking”)



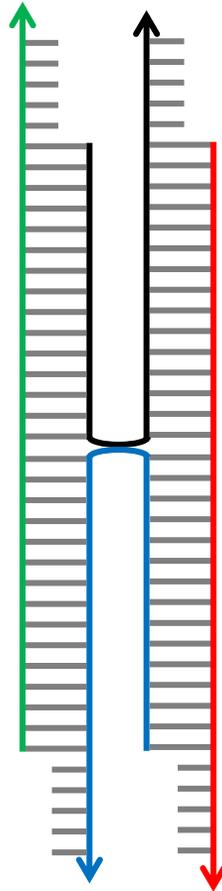
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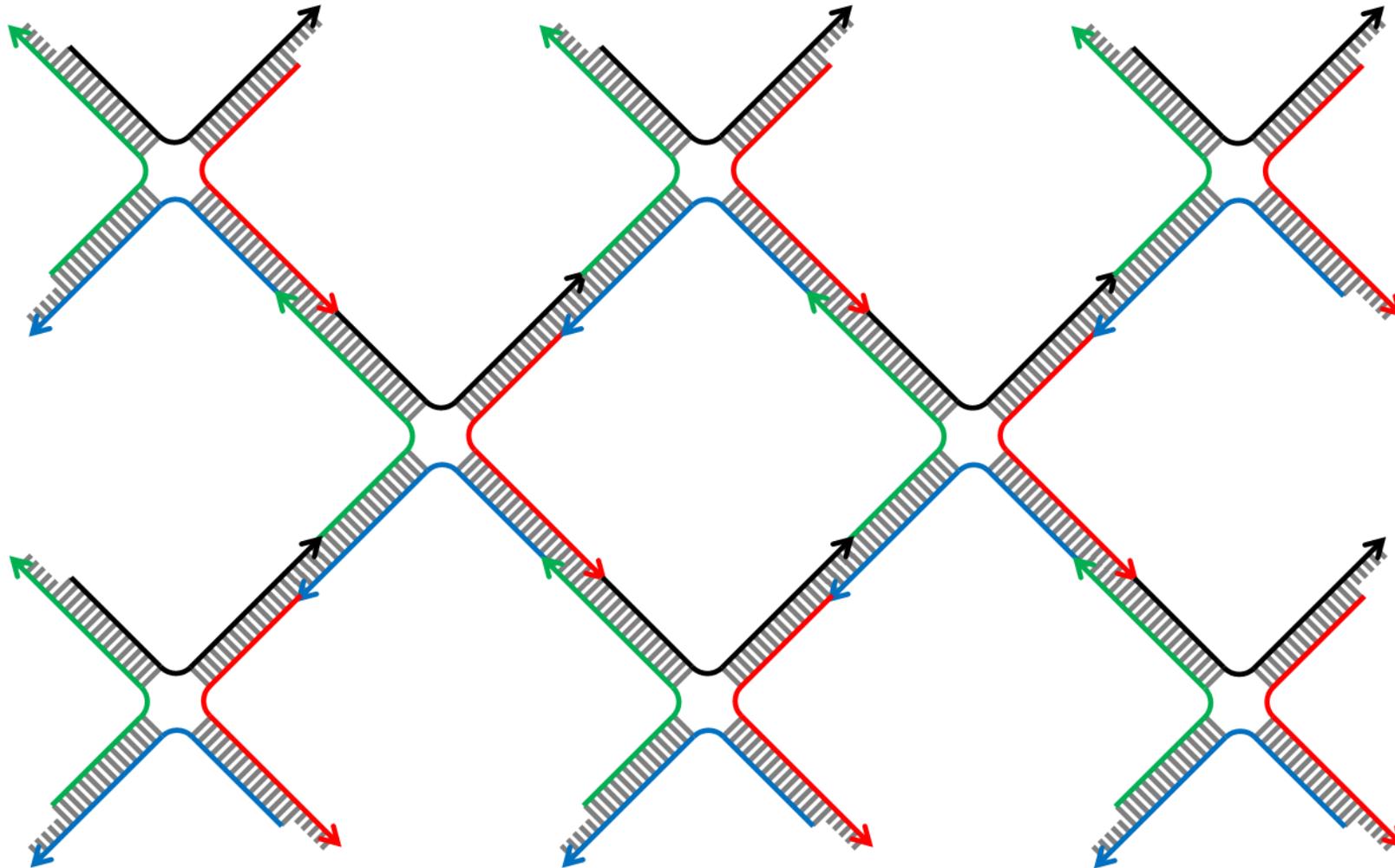
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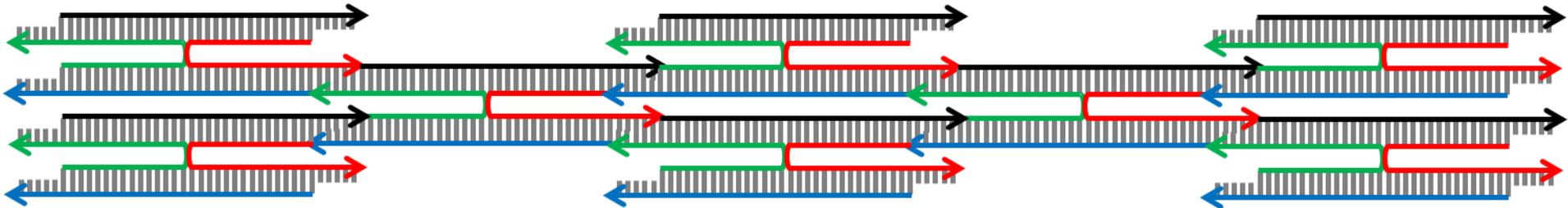
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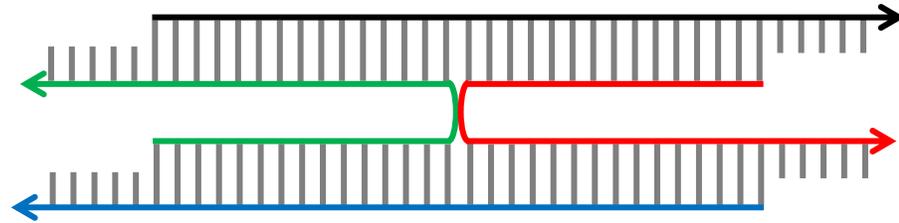


Practice of DNA tile self-assembly

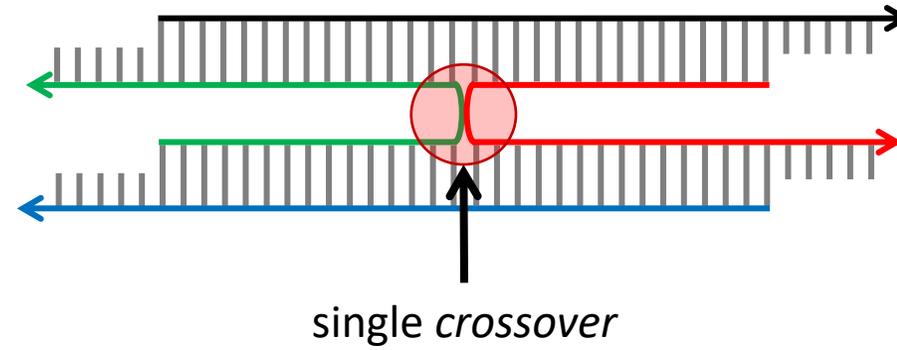
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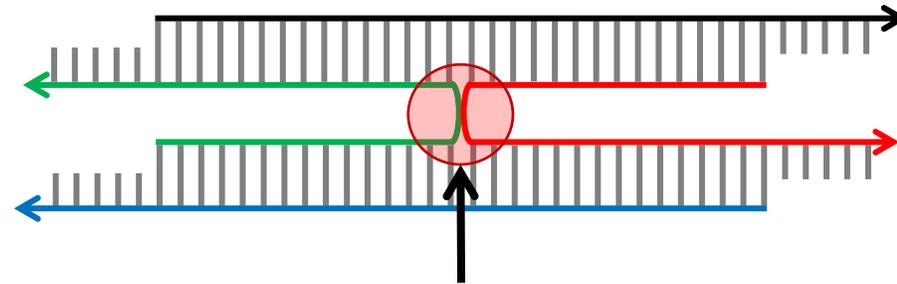
Practice of DNA tile self-assembly



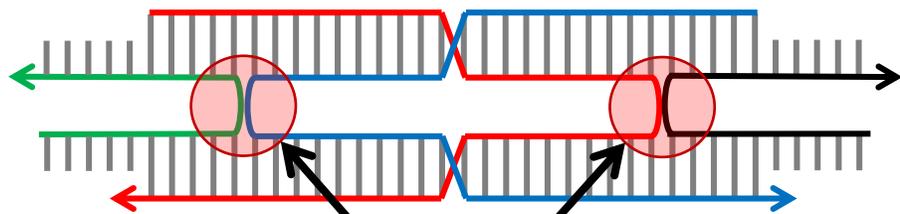
Practice of DNA tile self-assembly



Practice of DNA tile self-assembly



single crossover



double crossover

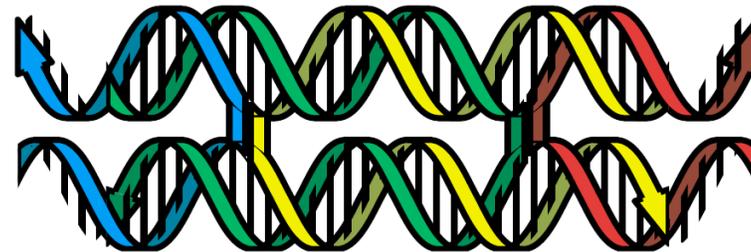
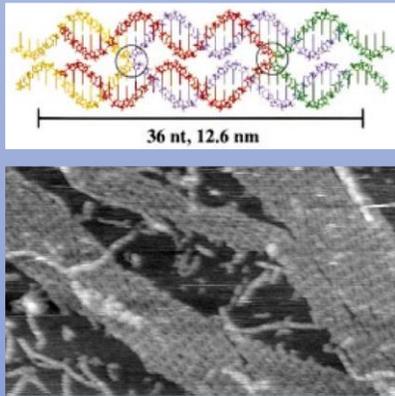


Figure from Schulman, Winfree, *PNAS* 2009

Practice of DNA tile self-assembly

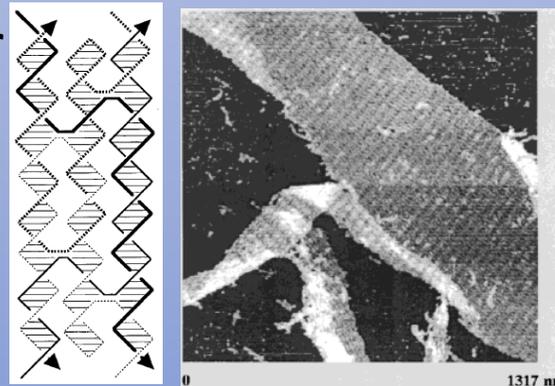
double-crossover tile

(Winfree, Liu, Wenzler, Seeman, *Nature* 1998)



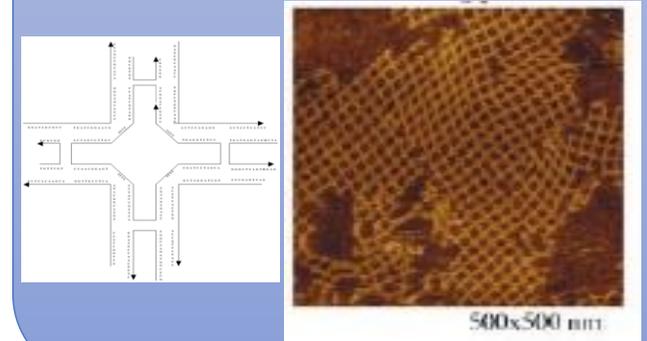
triple-crossover tile

(LaBean, Yan, Kopatsch, Liu, Winfree, Reif, Seeman, *JACS* 2000)



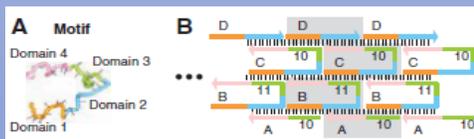
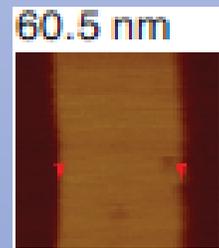
4x4 tile

(Yan, Park, Finkelstein, Reif, LaBean, *Science* 2003)



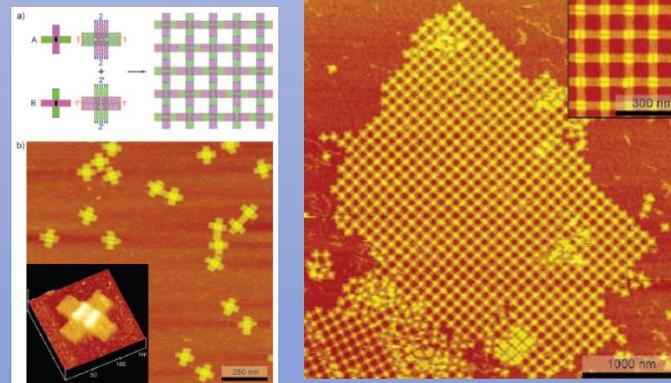
single-stranded tile

(Yin, Hariadi, Sahu, Choi, Park, LaBean, Reif, *Science* 2008)

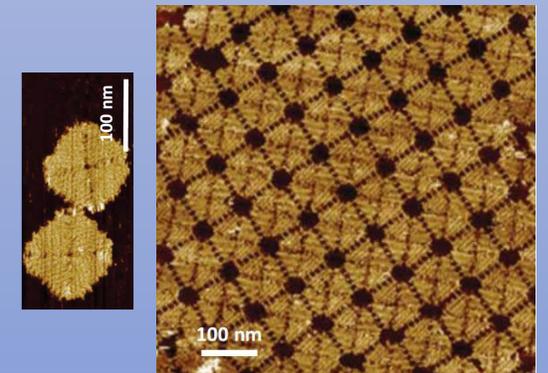


DNA origami tile

(Liu, Zhong, Wang, Seeman, *Angewandte Chemie* 2011)



Tikhomirov, Petersen, Qian, *Nature Nanotechnology* 2017



Theory of *algorithmic* self-assembly

What if...

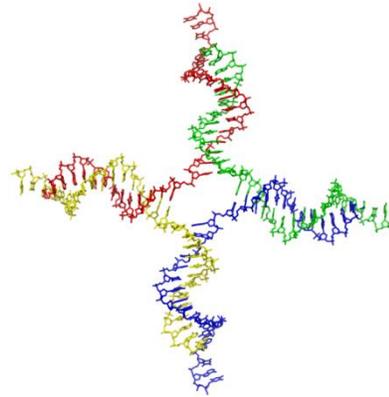
... there is more than one tile type?

... some sticky ends are “weak”?



Erik Winfree

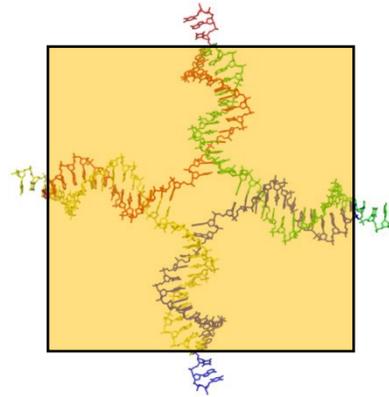
abstract Tile Assembly Model (aTAM)



Erik Winfree, Ph.D. thesis,
Caltech 1998

abstract Tile Assembly Model (aTAM)

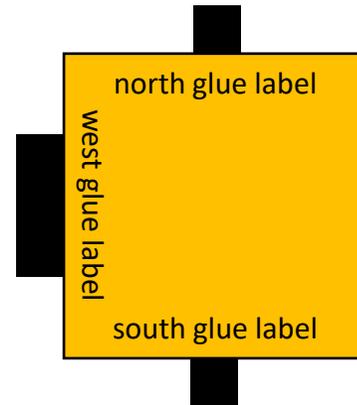
- **tile type** = unit square



Erik Winfree, Ph.D. thesis,
Caltech 1998

abstract Tile Assembly Model (aTAM)

- **tile type** = unit square
- each side has a **glue** with a **label** and **strength** (0, 1, or 2)



strength 0



strength 1 (weak)



strength 2 (strong)



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- **tile type** = unit square
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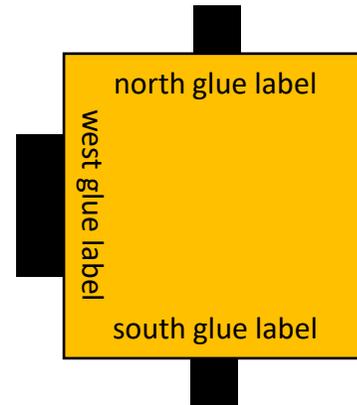
strength 2 (strong)



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- finitely many tile **types**
- infinitely many **tiles**: copies of each type

strength 0



strength 1 (weak)



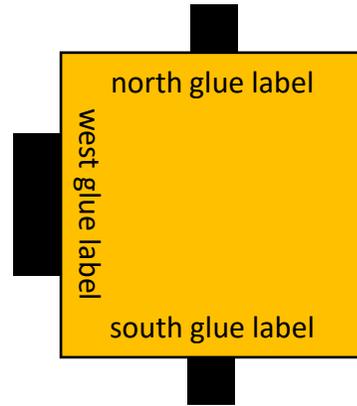
strength 2 (strong)



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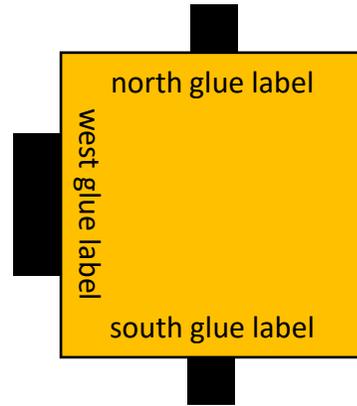


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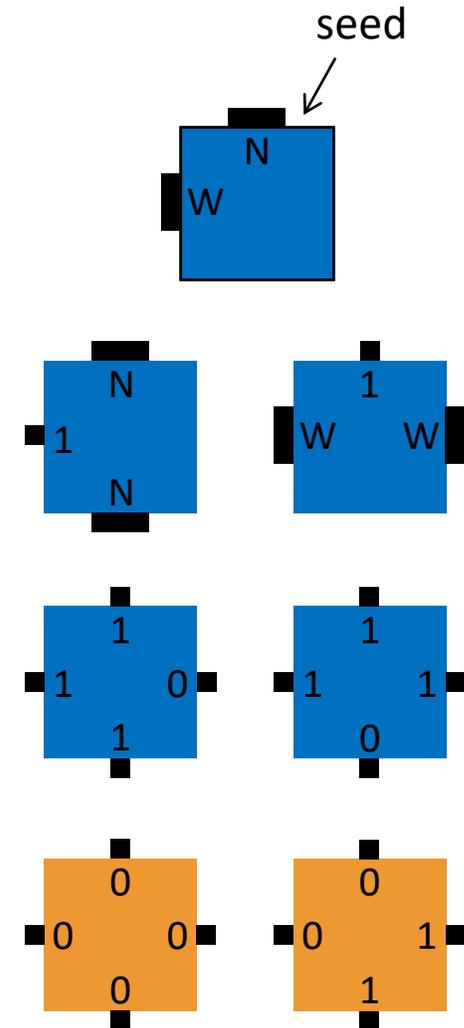


strength 2 (strong)

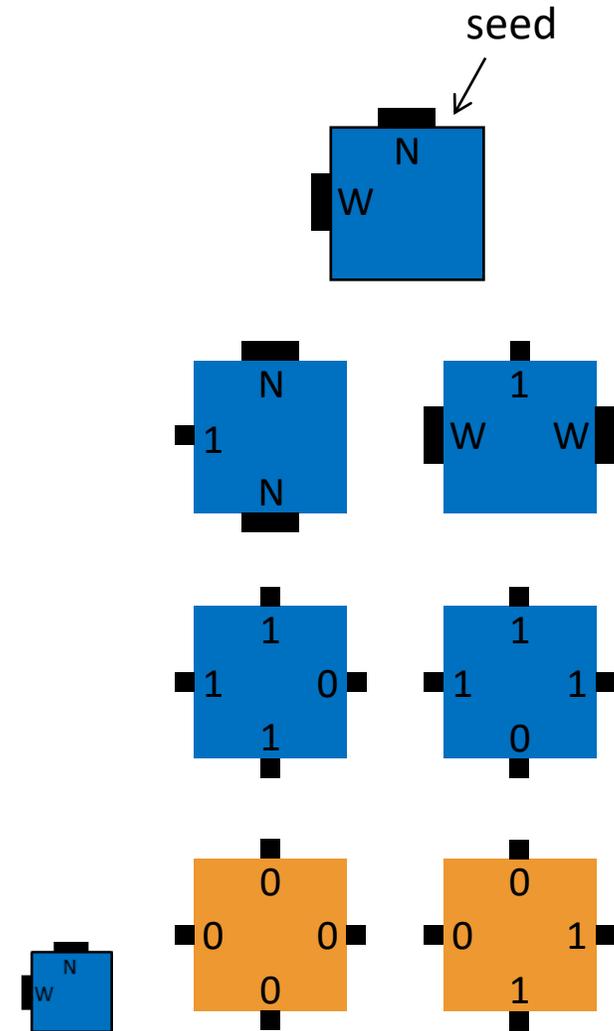


- finitely many tile **types**
- infinitely many **tiles**: copies of each type
- assembly starts as a single copy of a special **seed** tile
- tile can bind to the assembly if total binding strength ≥ 2 (**two weak glues** or **one strong glue**)

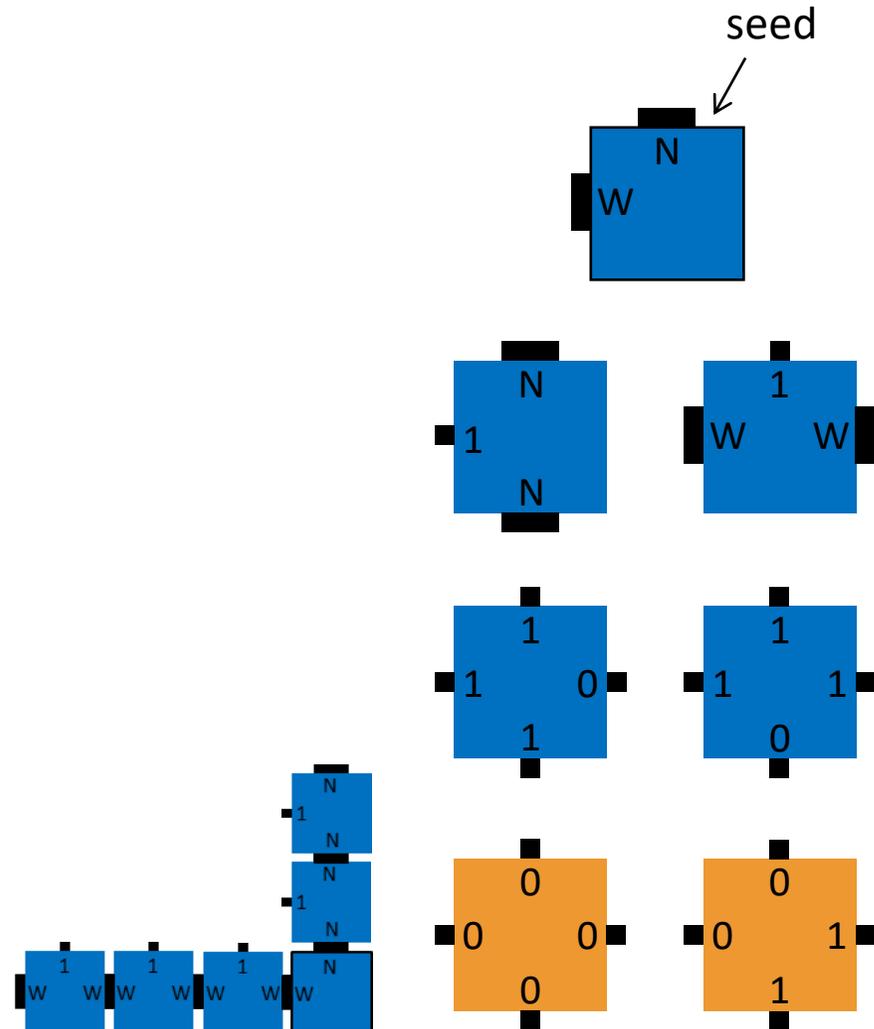
Example tile set



Example tile set

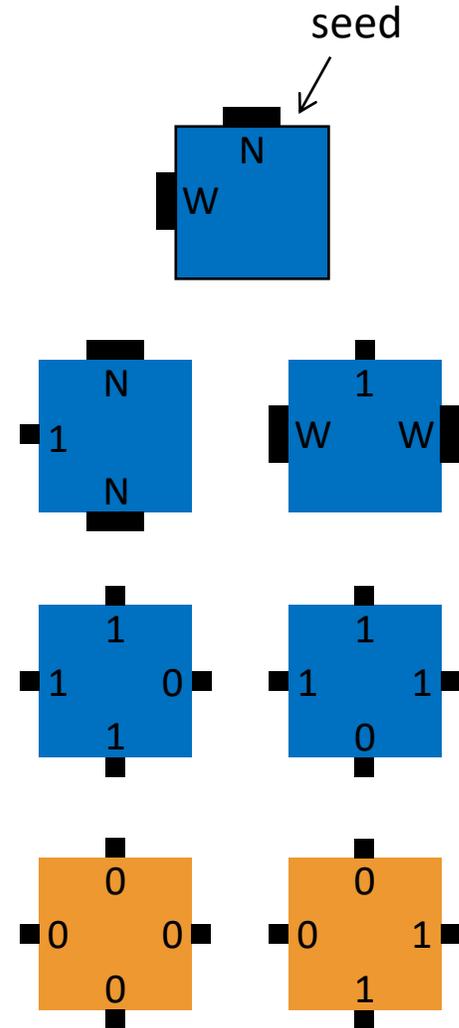
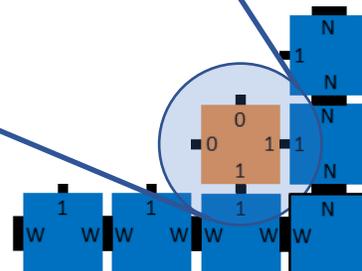
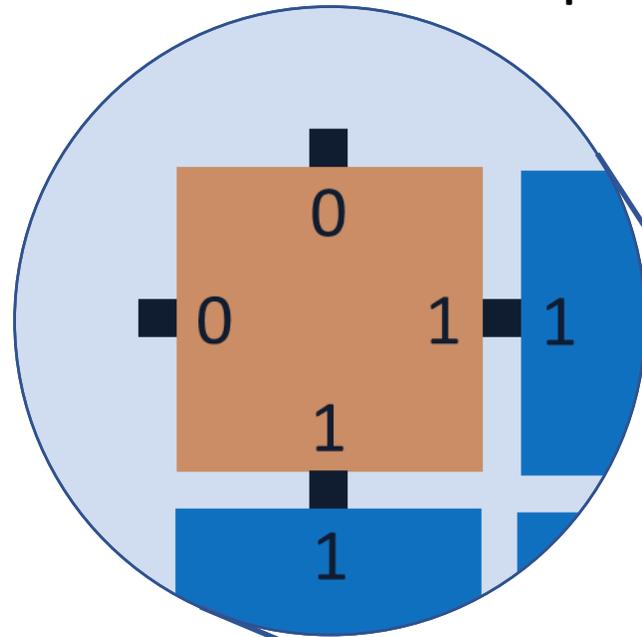


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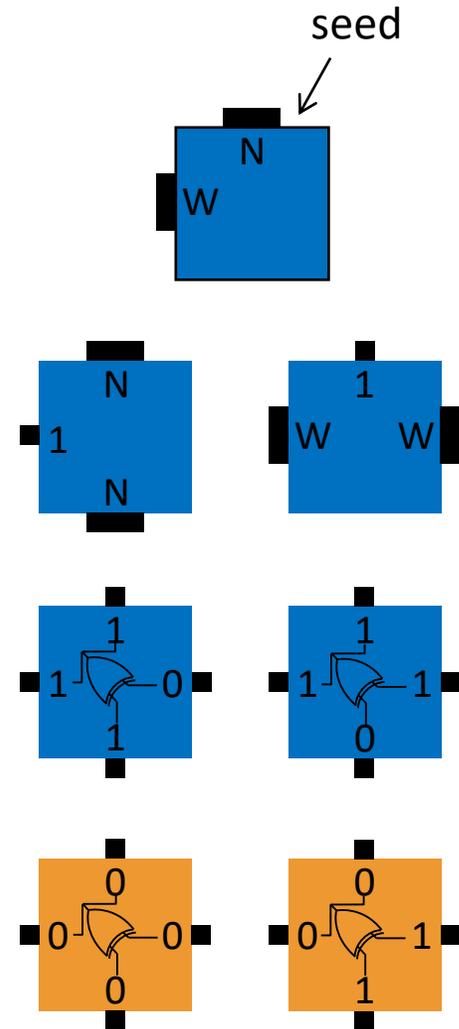
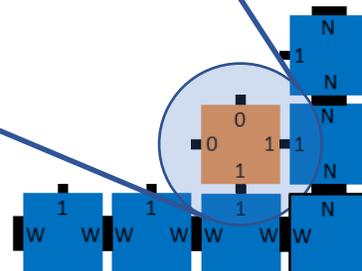
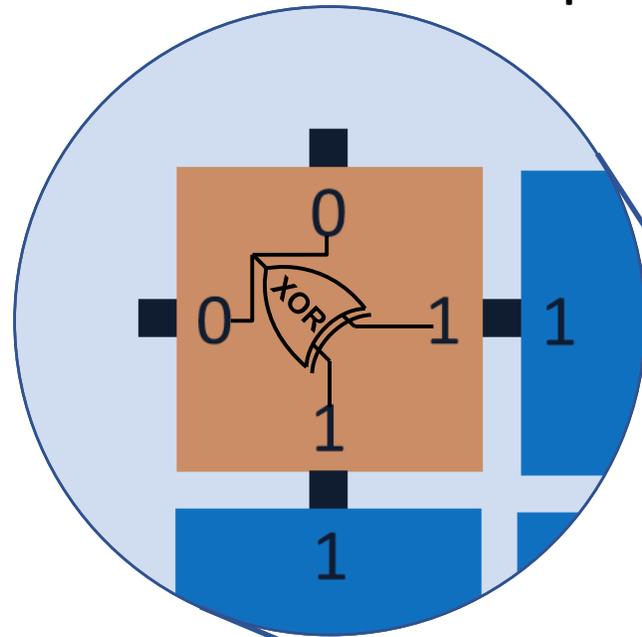
Example tile set

“cooperative binding”



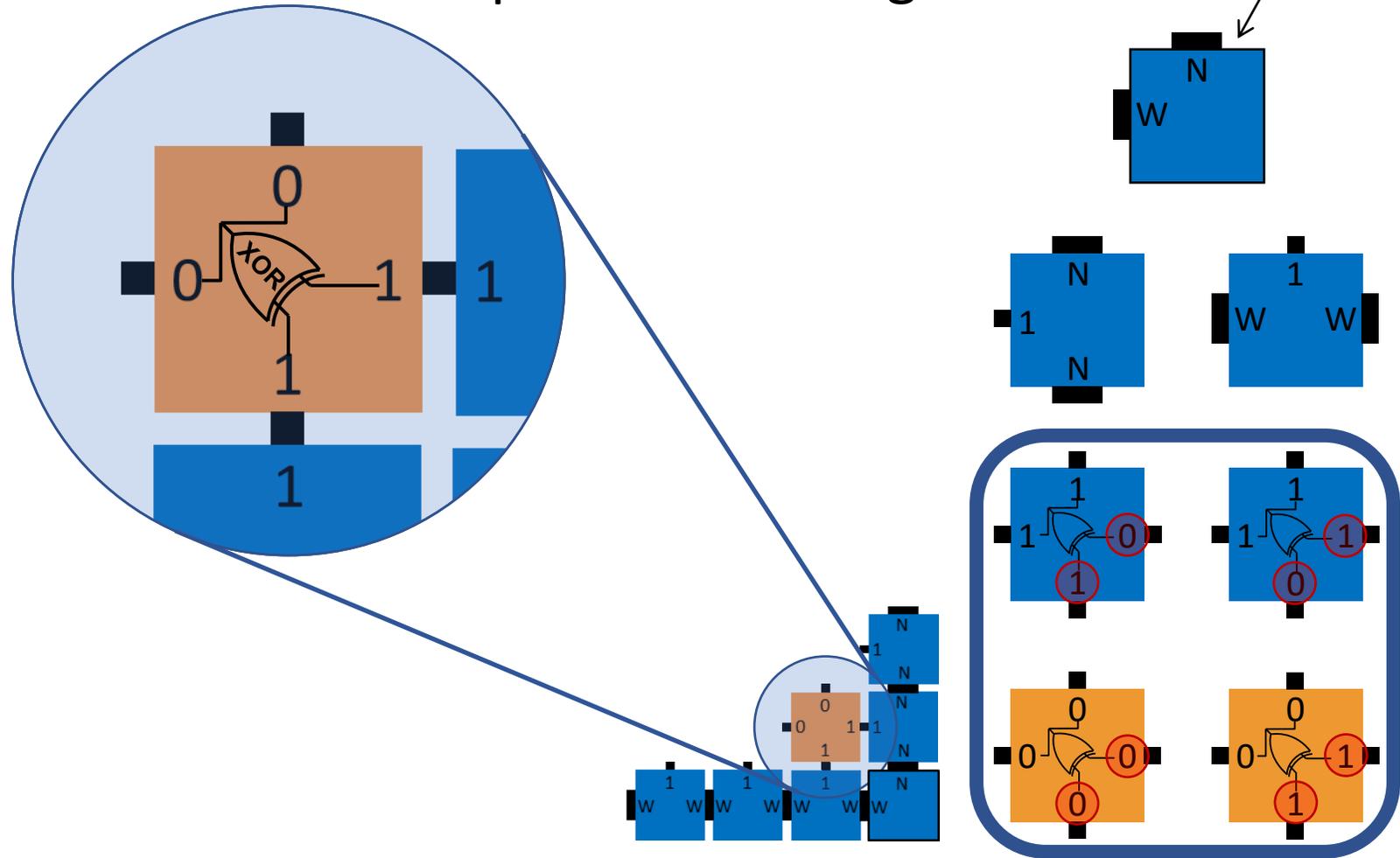
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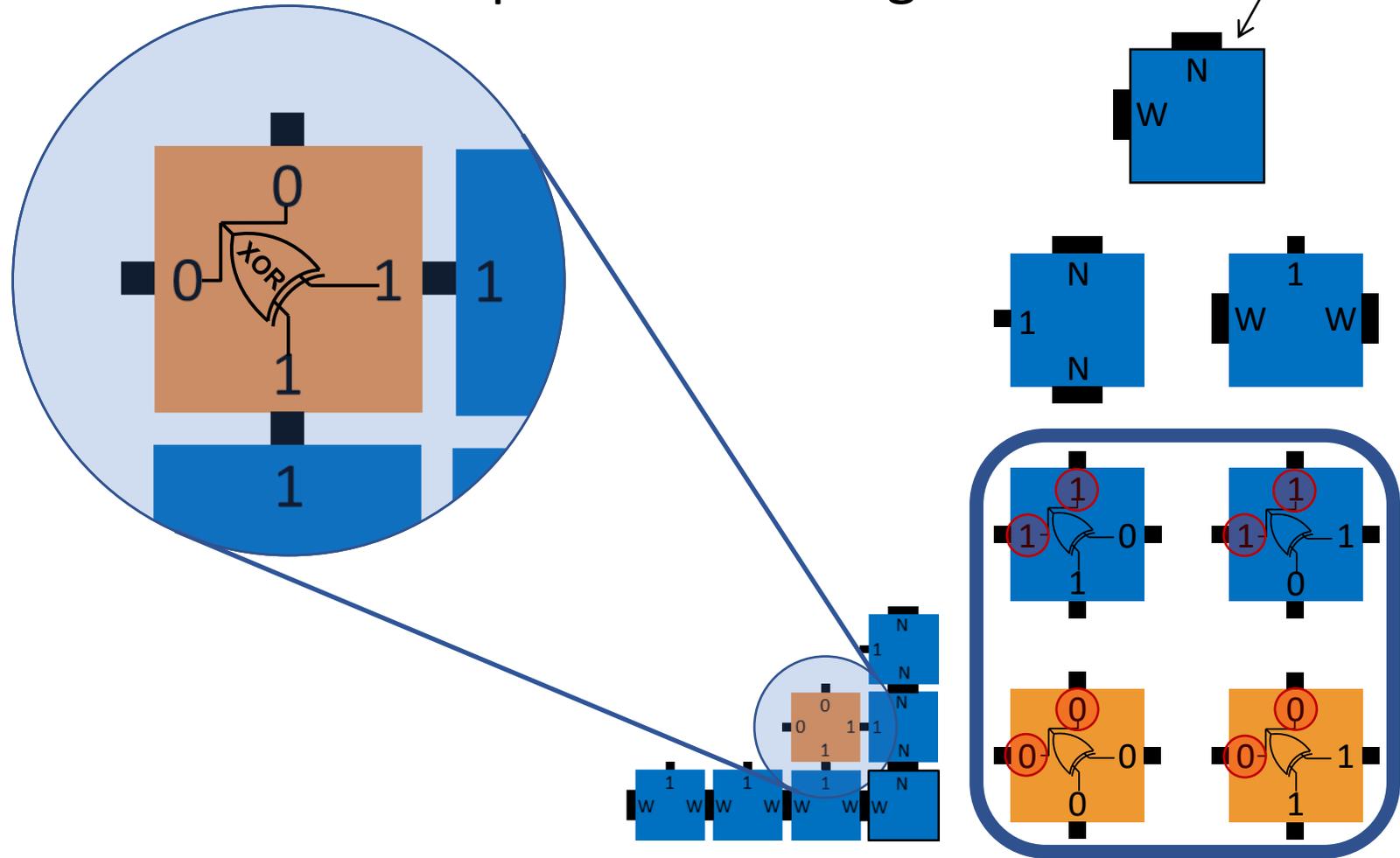
Example tile set

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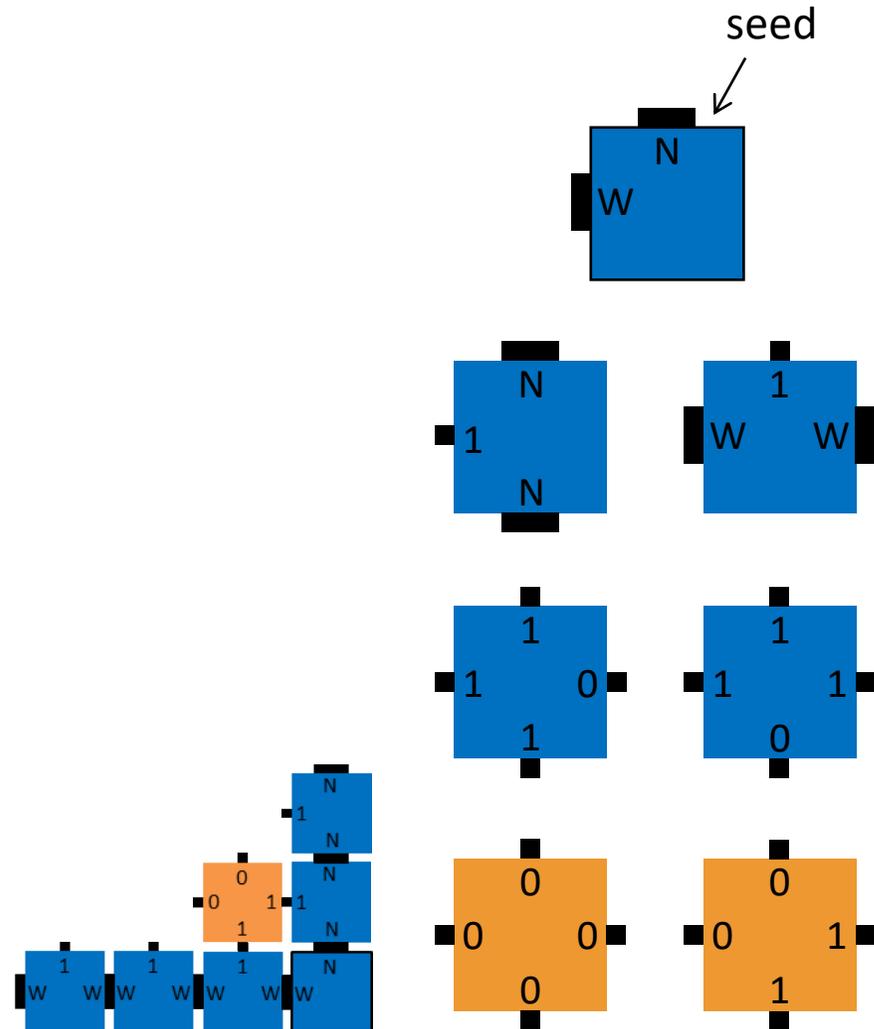


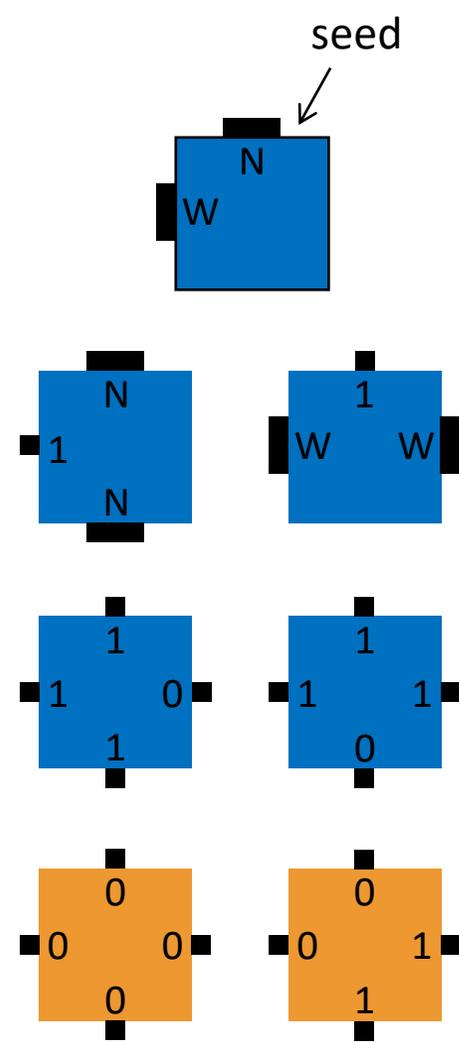
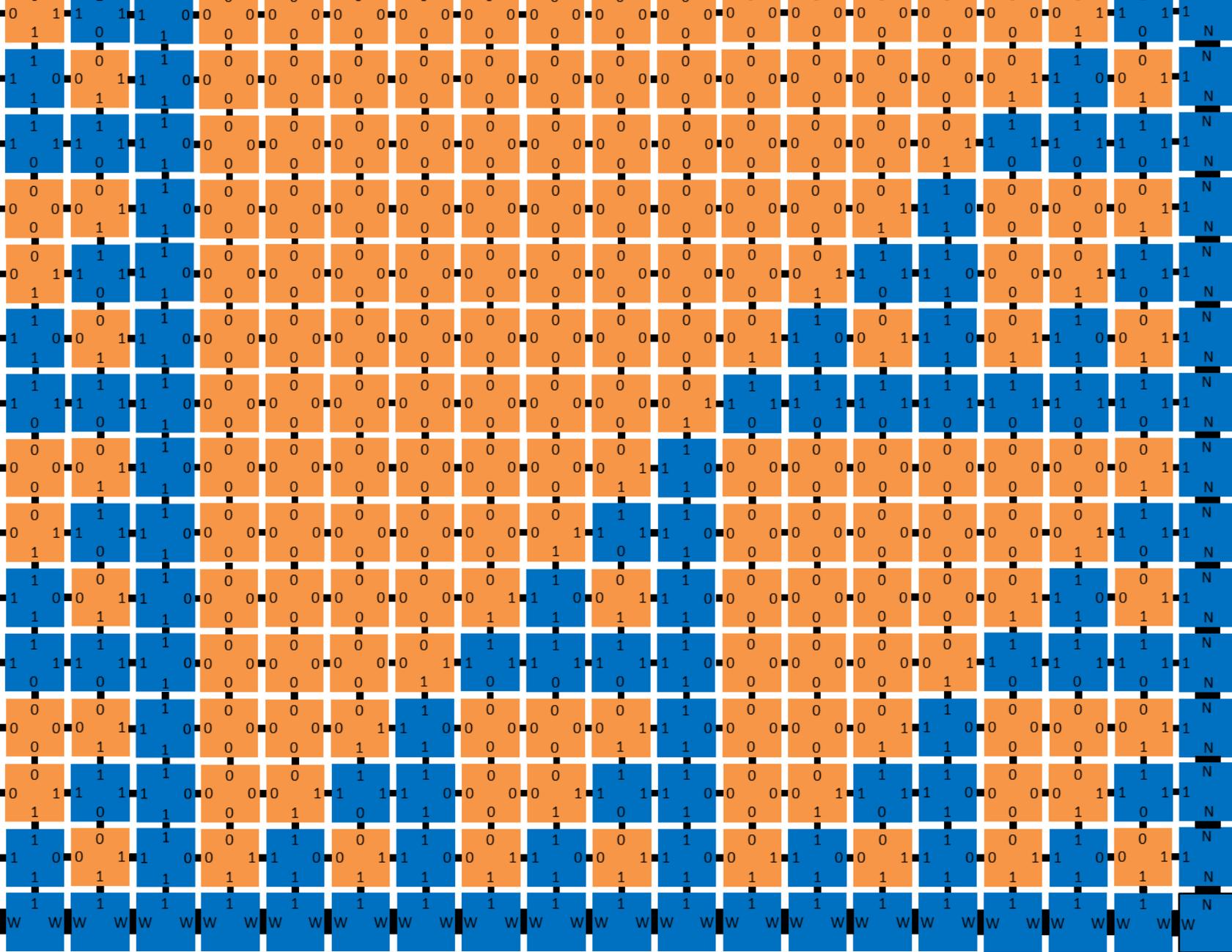
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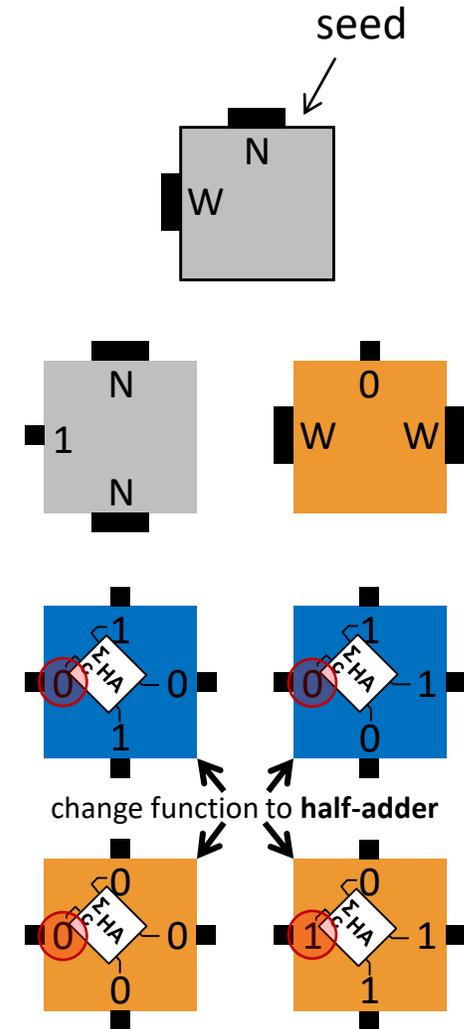
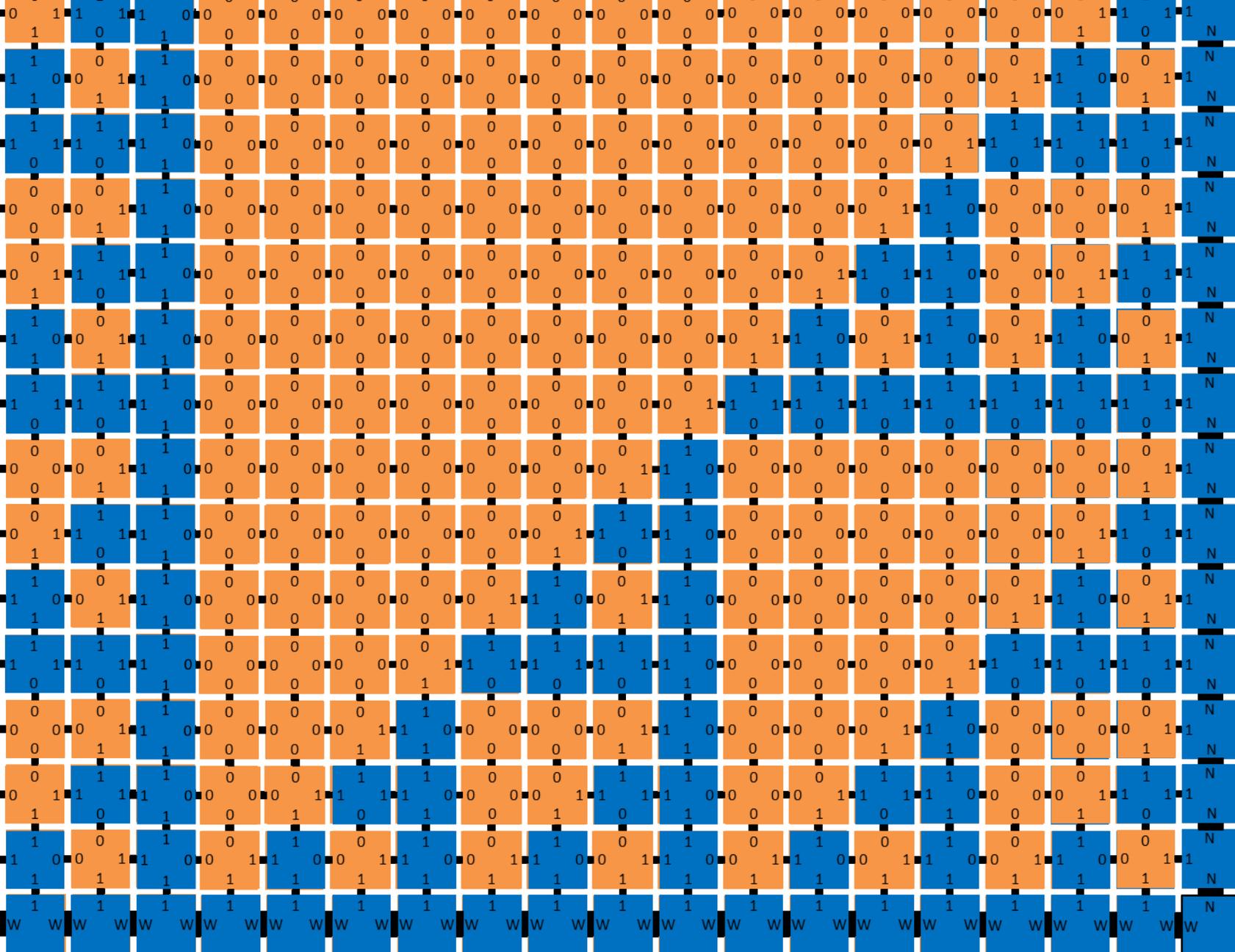
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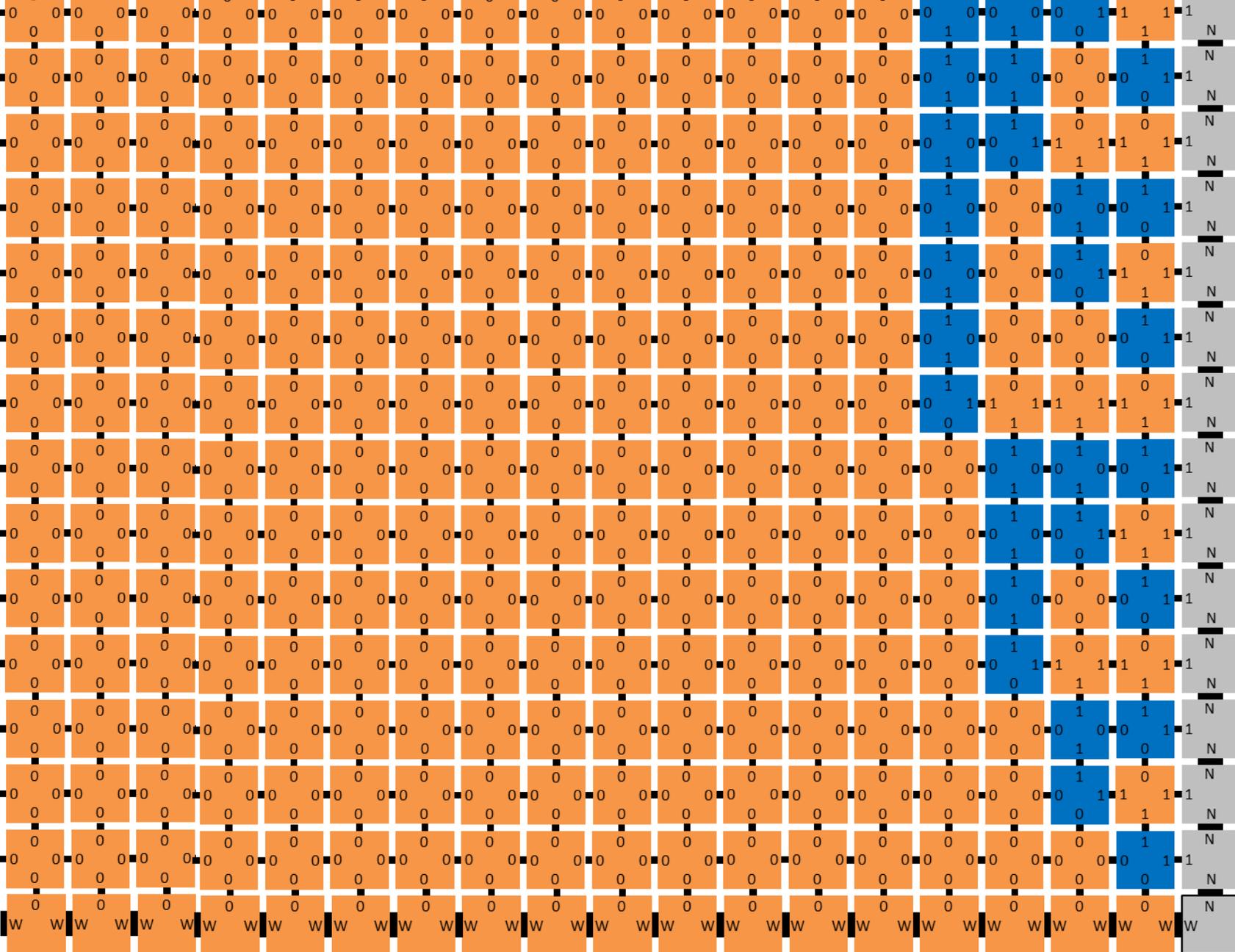


Example tile set

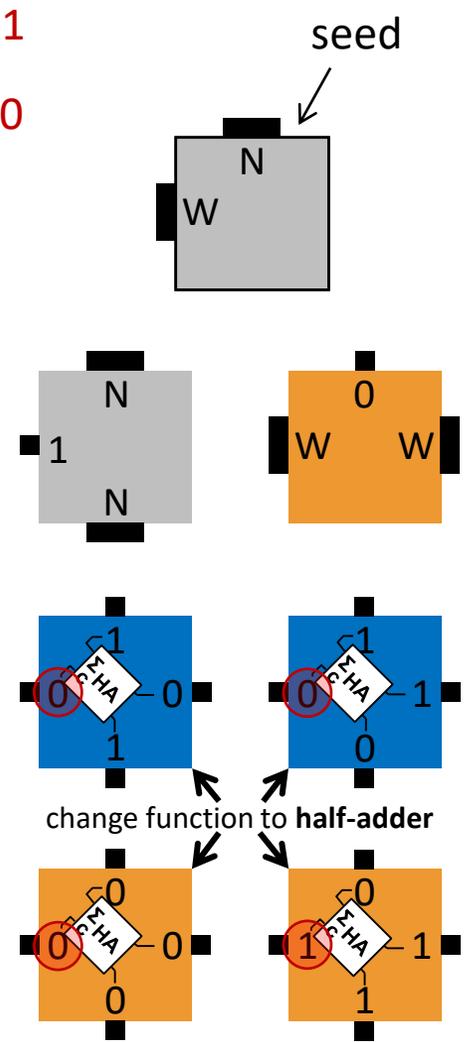




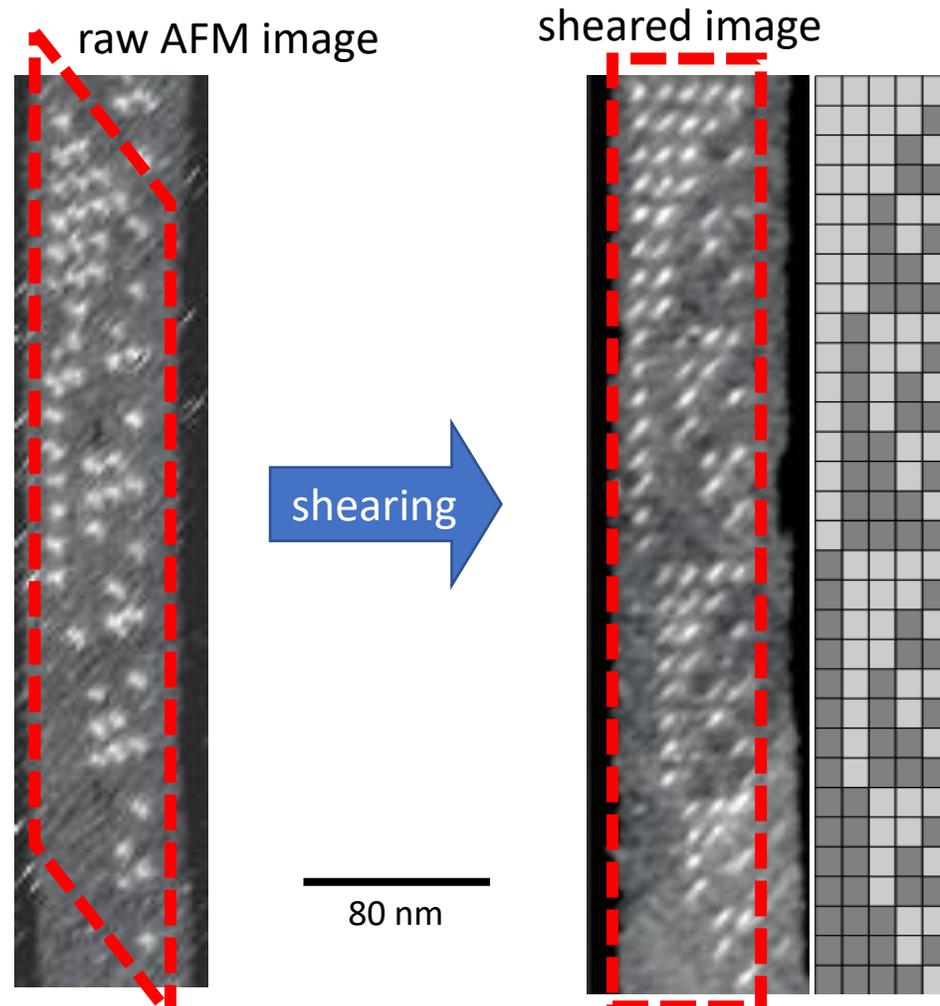




14
13
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0



Algorithmic self-assembly in action



[Crystals that count! Physical principles and experimental investigations of DNA tile self-assembly, Constantine Evans, Ph.D. thesis, Caltech, 2014]

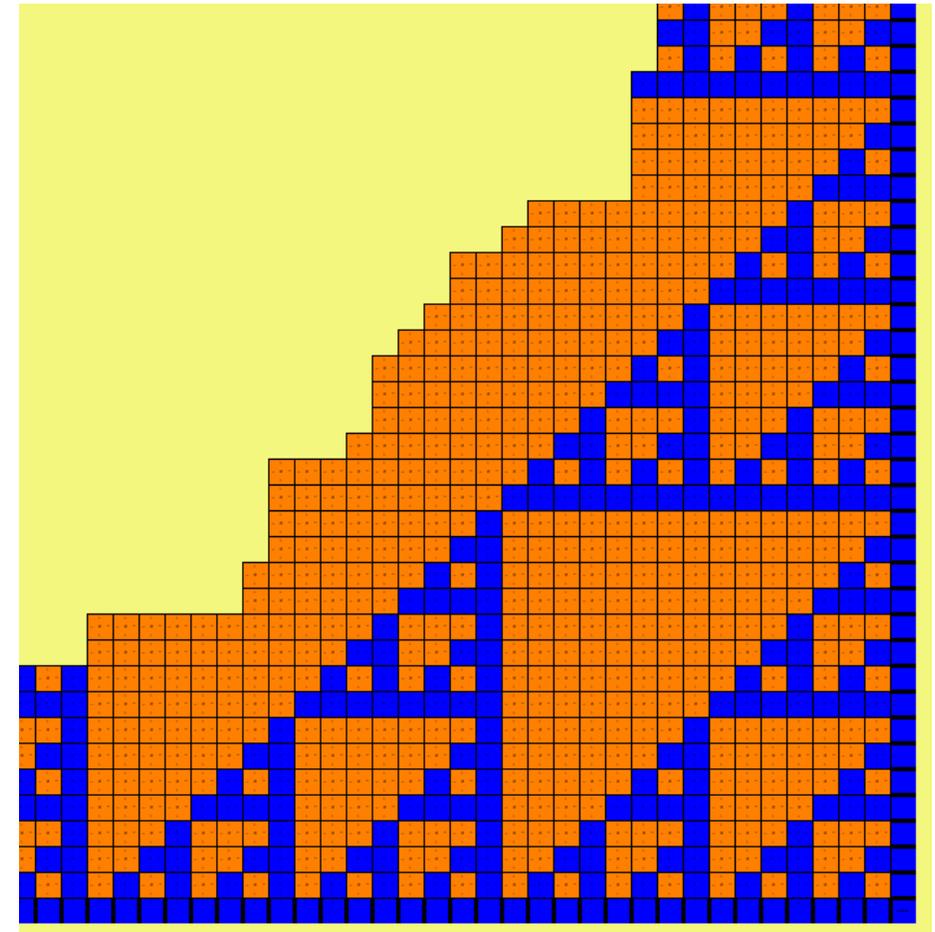
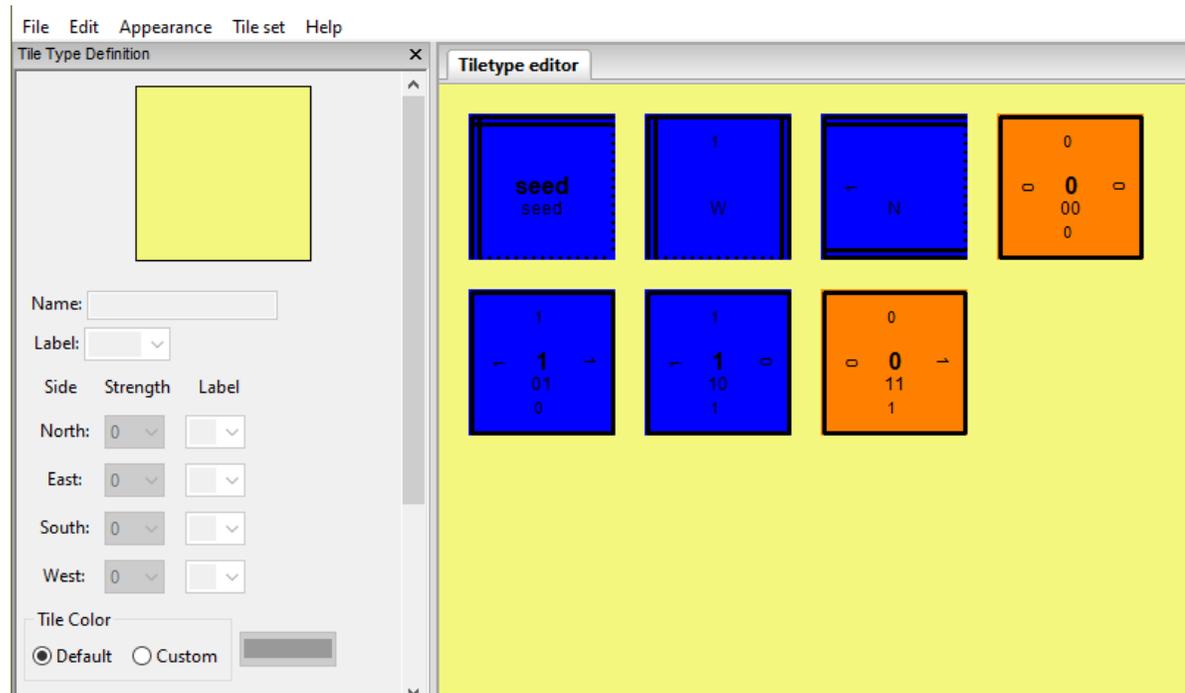
aTAM simulator (ISU TAS by Matt Patitz)

http://self-assembly.net/wiki/index.php?title=ISU_TAS

http://self-assembly.net/wiki/index.php?title=ISU_TAS_Tutorials

See also WebTAS by the same group:

<http://self-assembly.net/software/WebTAS/WebTAS-latest/>



VersaTile (by Eric Martinez and Cameron Chalk) <https://github.com/ericmichael/polyomino>
and xgrow (by Erik Winfree) <https://www.dna.caltech.edu/Xgrow/>

Tile complexity of squares

Tile complexity

- Resource bound to minimize, like time or memory with a traditional algorithm.

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- *[Note: we have not formally defined the aTAM yet... first let's build intuition.]*

The program size complexity of self-assembled squares

Question: How many tile types do we need to self-assemble an $n \times n$ square?

The program size complexity of self-assembled squares

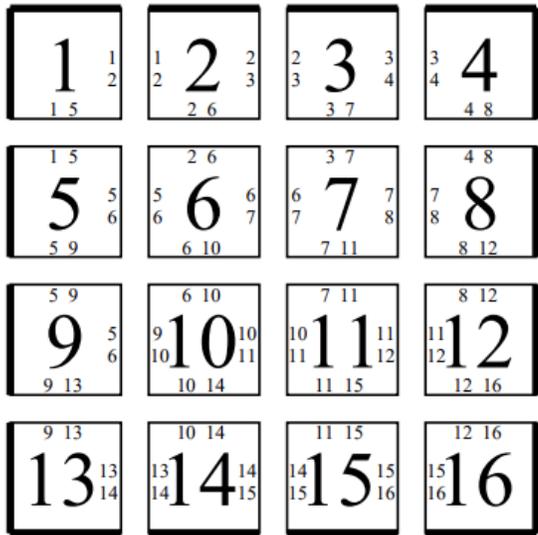
Question: How many tile types do we need to self-assemble an $n \times n$ square?

Concretely: how to assemble a 4×4 square?

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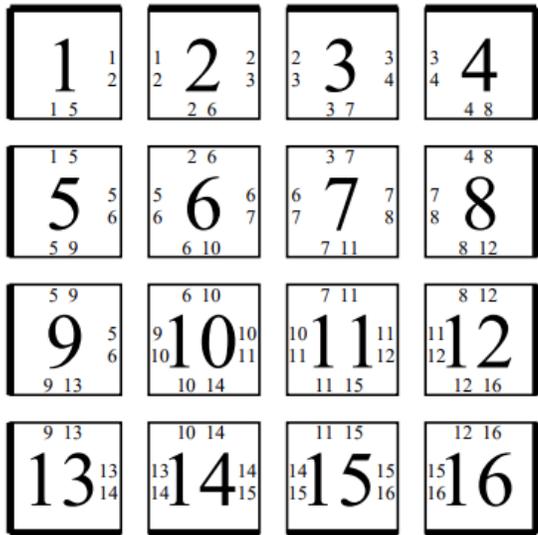


All glues are strength 2
(alternately: all are strength 1 and *temperature* $\tau = 1$)

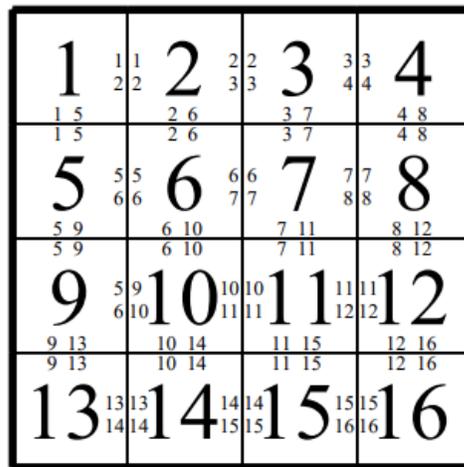
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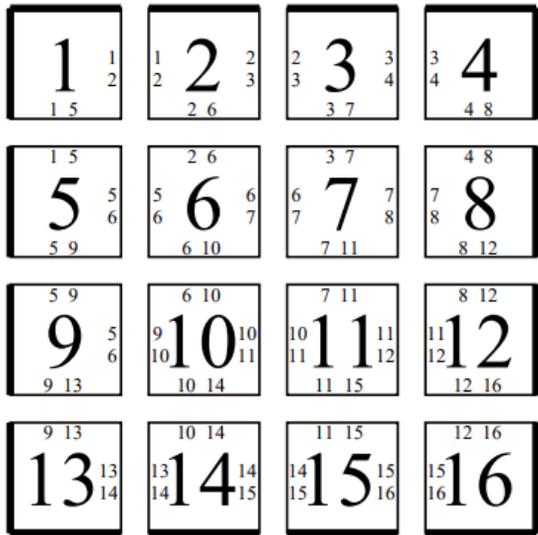
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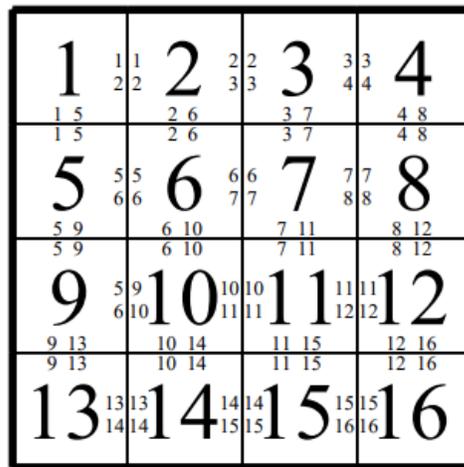
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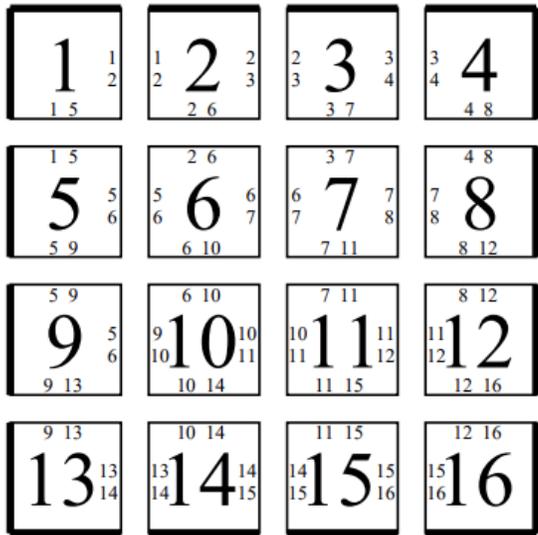


How many tile types does this construction need in general to assemble an $n \times n$ square?

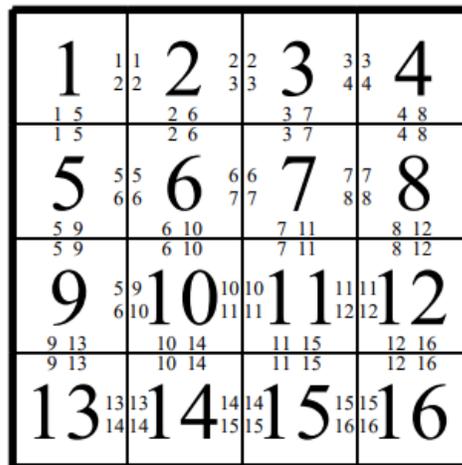
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How many tile types does this construction need in general to assemble an $n \times n$ square?

$$n^2$$

Tile complexity at temperature $\tau = 1$ (i.e., no cooperative binding allowed)

Is n^2 optimal?
Can we do better?

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Note all pairs of adjacent tiles
bind with positive strength:

1 $\begin{matrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 \end{matrix}$	2 $\begin{matrix} 2 & 2 \\ 3 & 3 \end{matrix}$	3 $\begin{matrix} 3 & 3 \\ 4 & 4 \end{matrix}$	4 $\begin{matrix} 4 & 8 \\ 4 & 8 \end{matrix}$
5 $\begin{matrix} 5 & 5 \\ 6 & 6 \end{matrix}$	6 $\begin{matrix} 6 & 6 \\ 7 & 7 \end{matrix}$	7 $\begin{matrix} 7 & 7 \\ 8 & 8 \end{matrix}$	8 $\begin{matrix} 8 & 12 \\ 8 & 12 \end{matrix}$
9 $\begin{matrix} 9 & 13 \\ 9 & 13 \end{matrix}$	10 $\begin{matrix} 10 & 14 \\ 11 & 14 \end{matrix}$	11 $\begin{matrix} 11 & 15 \\ 12 & 15 \end{matrix}$	12 $\begin{matrix} 12 & 16 \\ 12 & 16 \end{matrix}$
13 $\begin{matrix} 13 & 13 \\ 14 & 14 \end{matrix}$	14 $\begin{matrix} 14 & 14 \\ 15 & 15 \end{matrix}$	15 $\begin{matrix} 15 & 15 \\ 16 & 16 \end{matrix}$	16 $\begin{matrix} 15 & 15 \\ 16 & 16 \end{matrix}$

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1 <small>1 1 2 2</small>	2 <small>2 2 3 3</small>	3 <small>3 3 4 4</small>	4 <small>4 4</small>
5 <small>5 5 6 6</small>	6 <small>6 6 7 7</small>	7 <small>7 7 8 8</small>	8 <small>8 8</small>
9 <small>9 9</small>	10 <small>10 10 11 11</small>	11 <small>11 11 12 12</small>	12 <small>12 12</small>
13 <small>13 13 14 14</small>	14 <small>14 14 15 15</small>	15 <small>15 15 16 16</small>	16 <small>16 16</small>

Theorem: At temperature $\tau = 1$, if all pairs of adjacent tiles bind with positive strength, then for every positive integer n , n^2 tile types are necessary to self-assemble an $n \times n$ square.

Tile complexity at temperature $\tau = 1$ (i.e., no cooperative binding allowed)

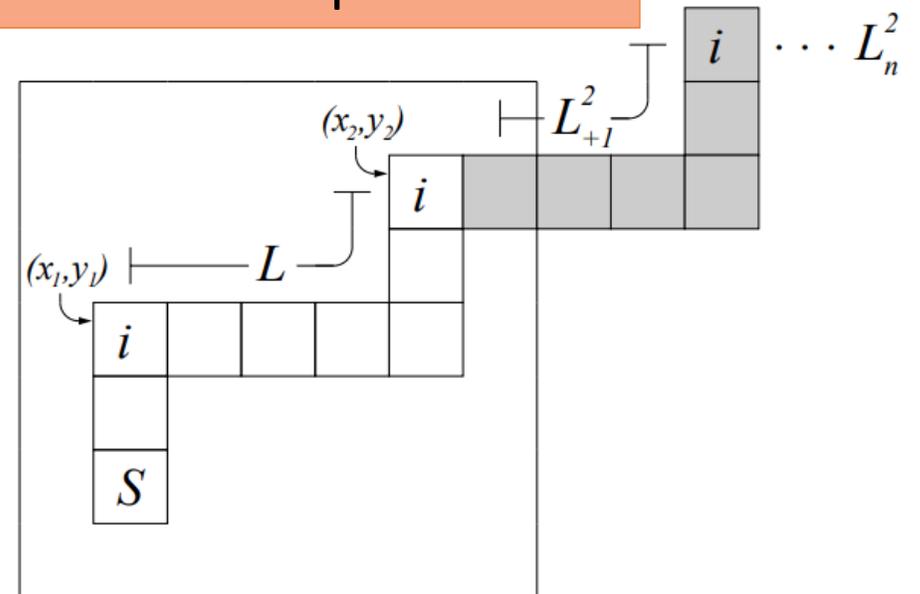
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9 <small>9 9 9 13</small>	10 <small>10 10 10 14</small>	11 <small>11 11 11 15</small>	12 <small>12 12 12 16</small>
13 <small>13 13 14 14</small>	14 <small>14 14 15 15</small>	15 <small>15 15 16 16</small>	16 <small>16 16</small>

Theorem: At temperature $\tau = 1$, if all pairs of adjacent tiles bind with positive strength, then for every positive integer n , n^2 tile types are necessary to self-assemble an $n \times n$ square.

Proof: Suppose for contradiction we use the same tile type i at positions (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) . Then they have a path L between them with all positive-strength glues, and this can happen instead:



Tile complexity at temperature $\tau = 1$,
where not all adjacent tiles are bound

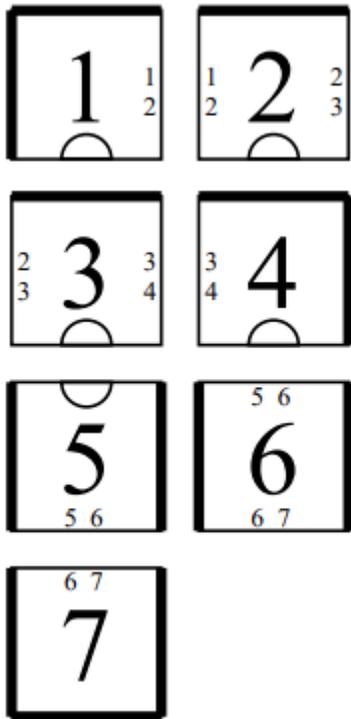
Is n^2 still optimal?

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Is n^2 still optimal? No!

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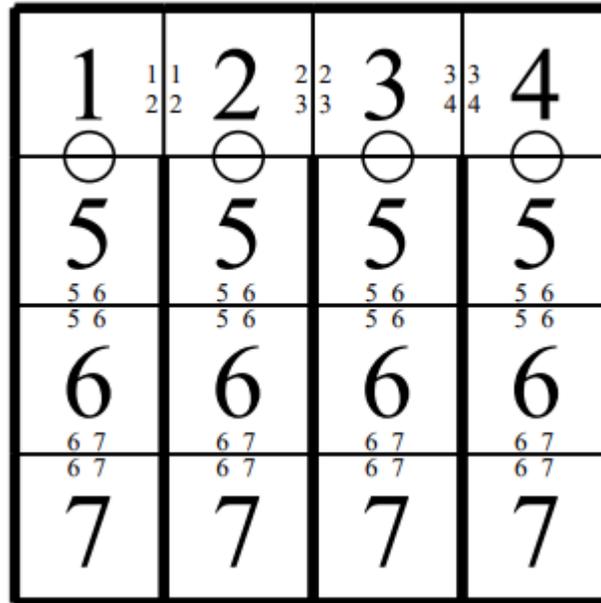
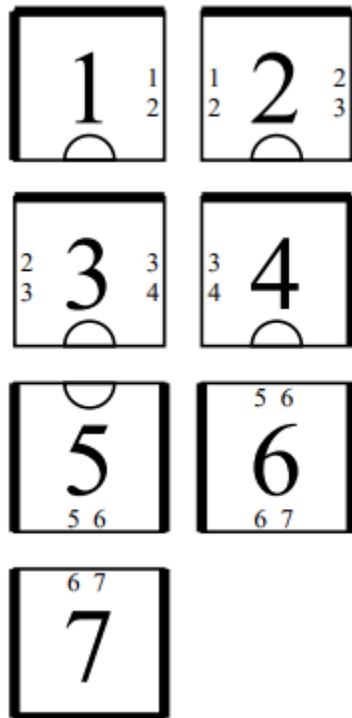
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Tile complexity at temperature $\tau = 1$, where not all adjacent tiles are bound

Is n^2 still optimal?

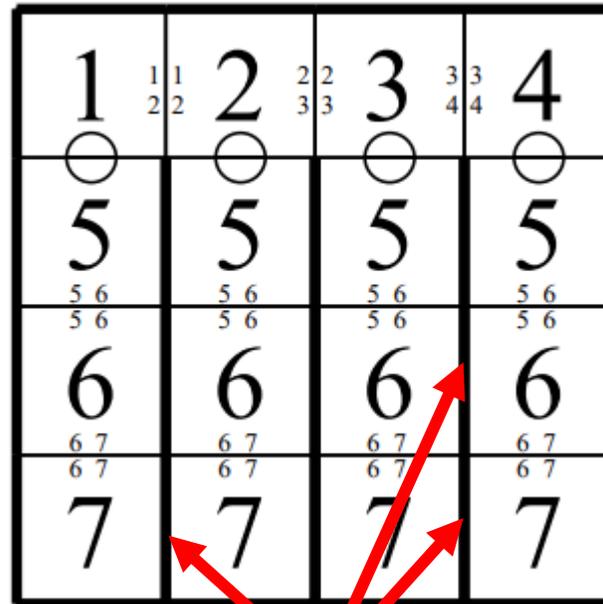
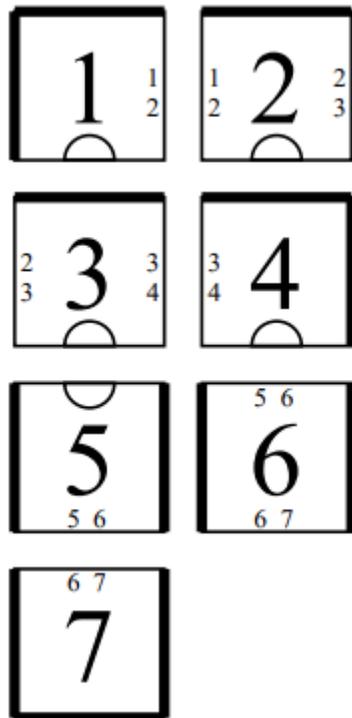
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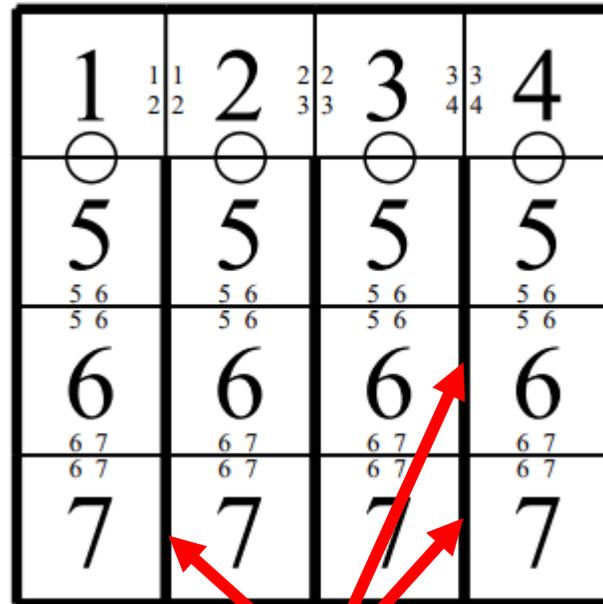
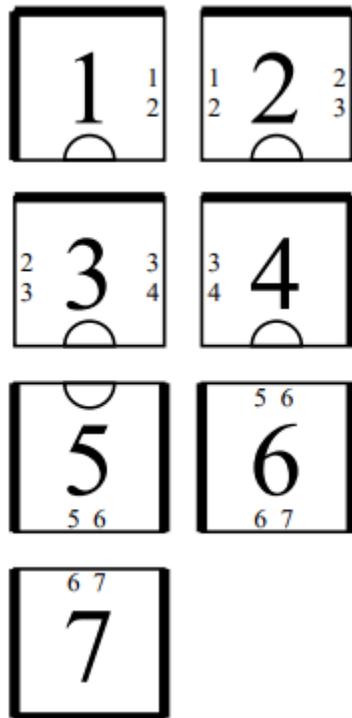


strength-0 glues

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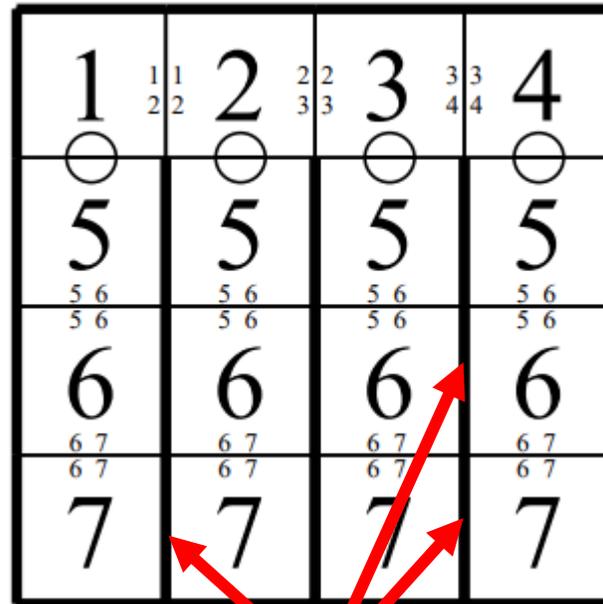
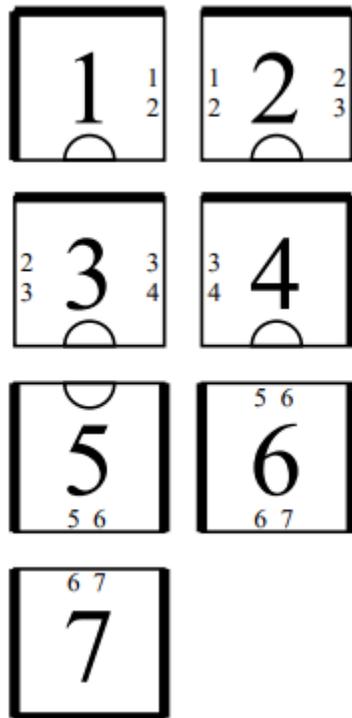
strength-0 glues

Tile complexity of this construction?

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strength-0 glues

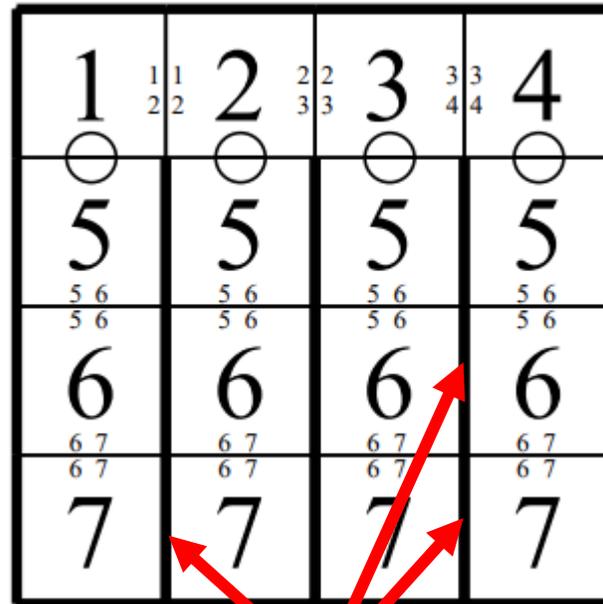
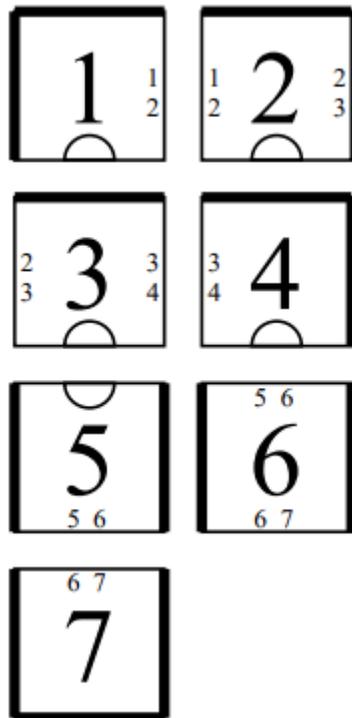
Tile complexity of
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$$2n - 1 = O(n)$$

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strength-0 glues

Tile complexity of this construction?

$$2n - 1 = O(n)$$

Conjecture: The temperature $\tau = 1$ tile complexity of an $n \times n$ square is $\Omega(n)$.

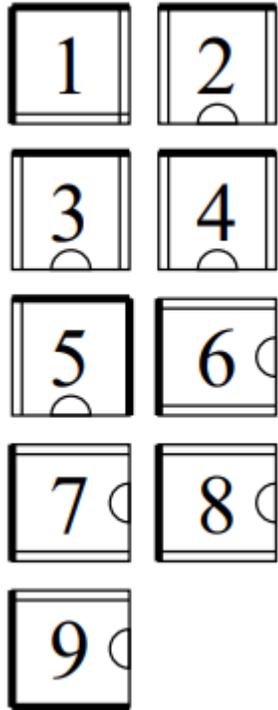
(most recent progress:

<https://arxiv.org/abs/1902.02253>

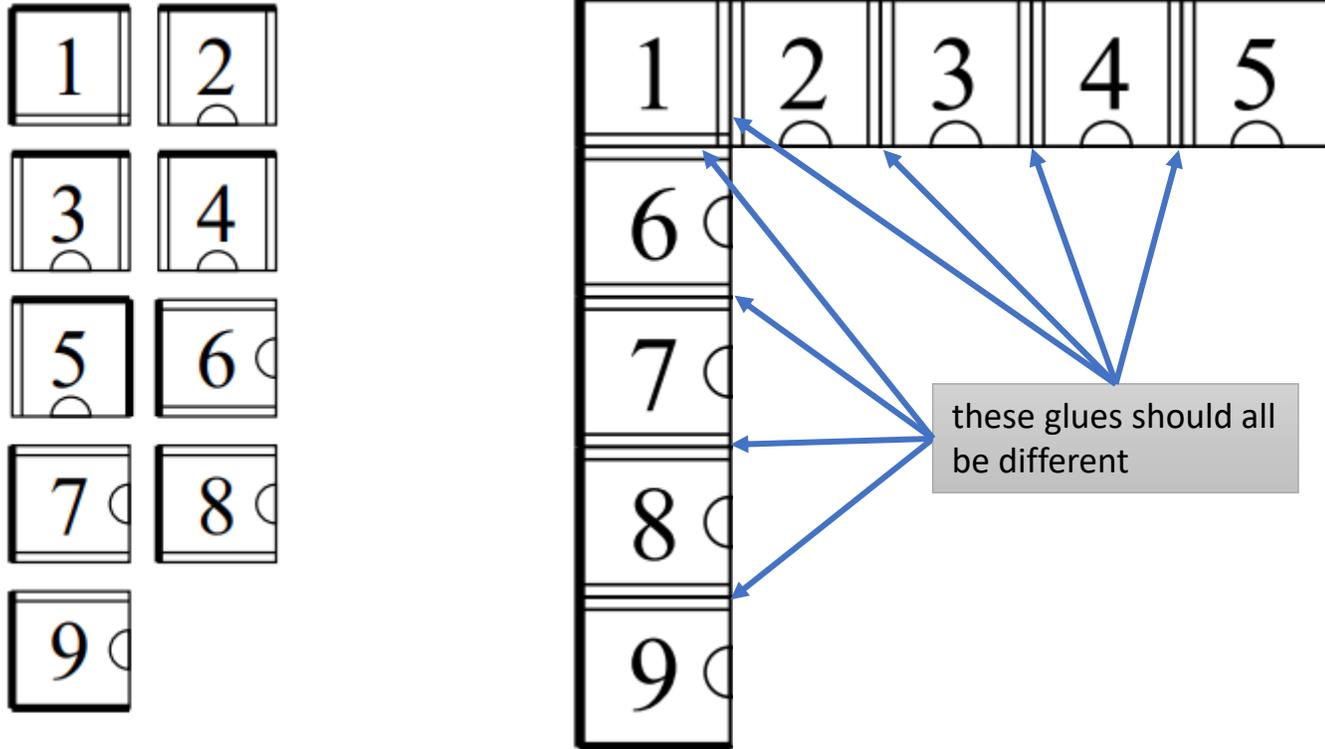
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2002.04012>)

Tile complexity at temperature $\tau = 2$
(i.e., cooperative binding allowed)

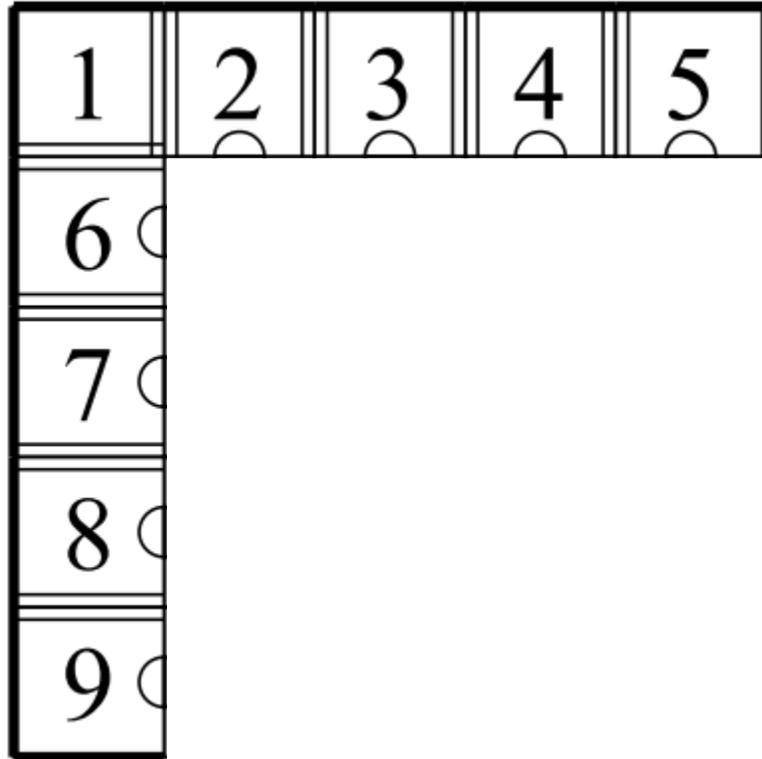
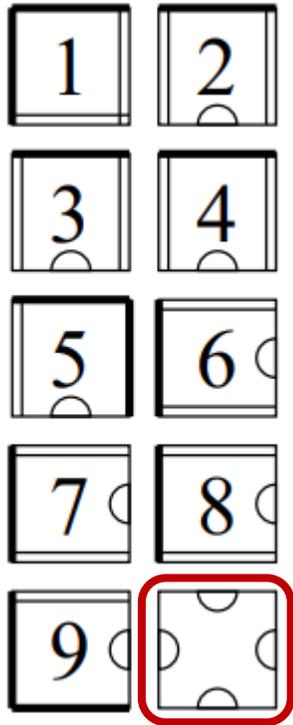
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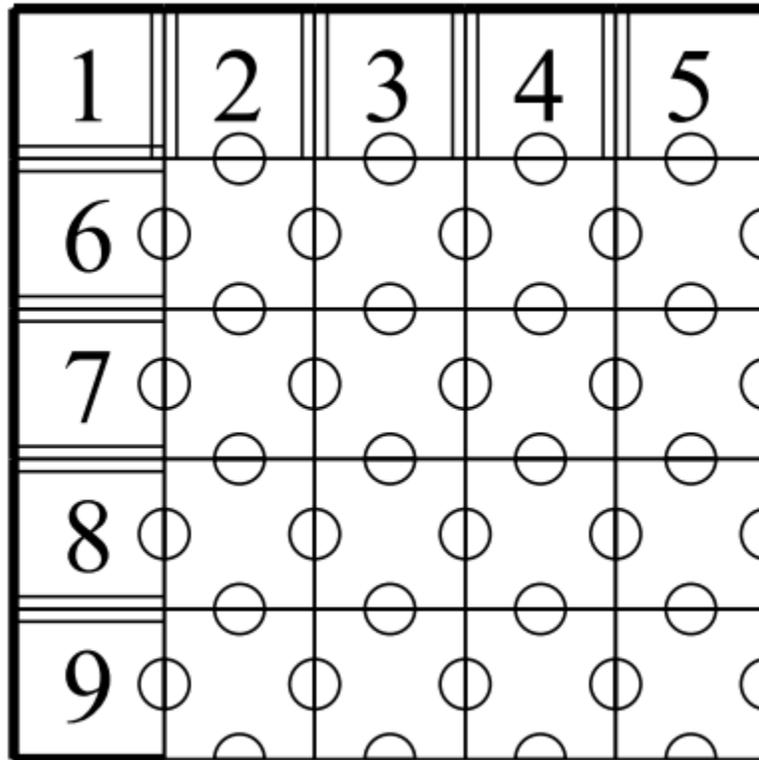
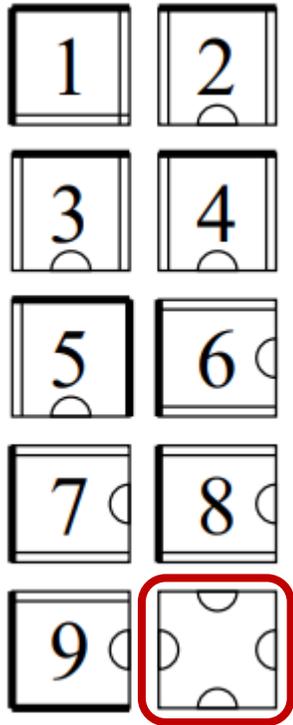
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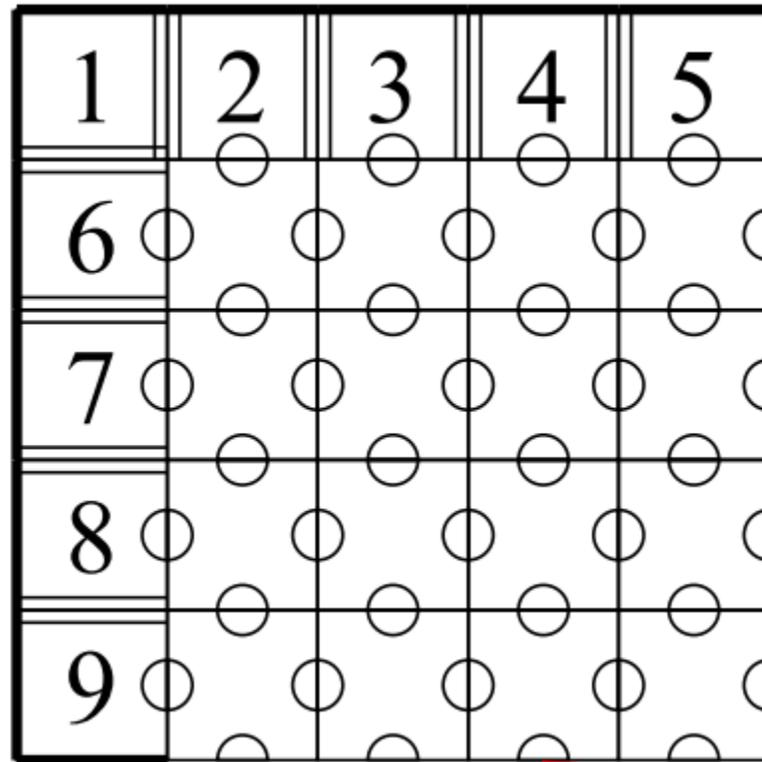
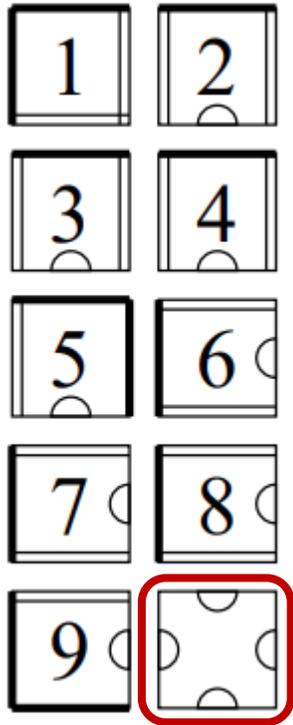
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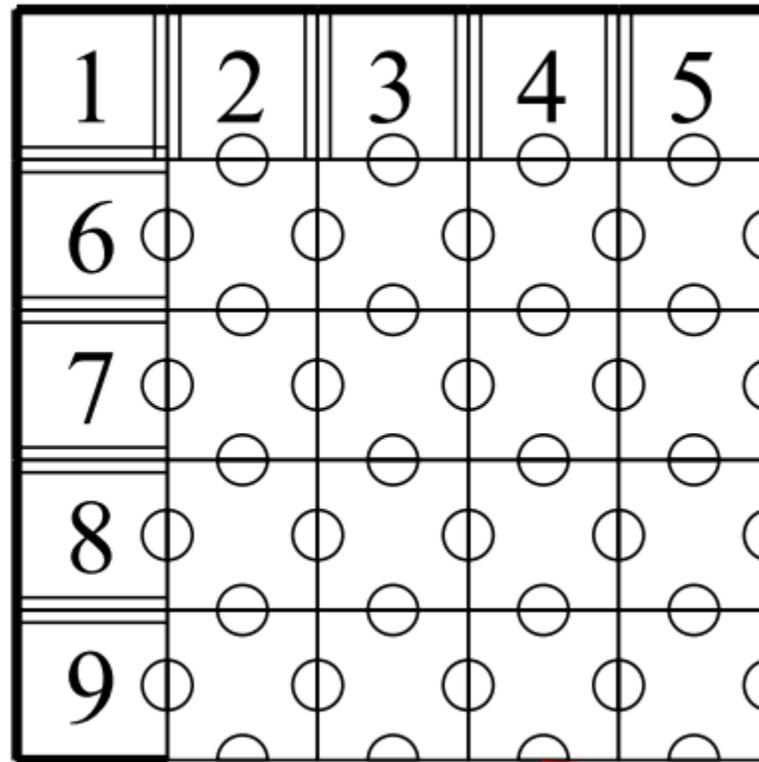
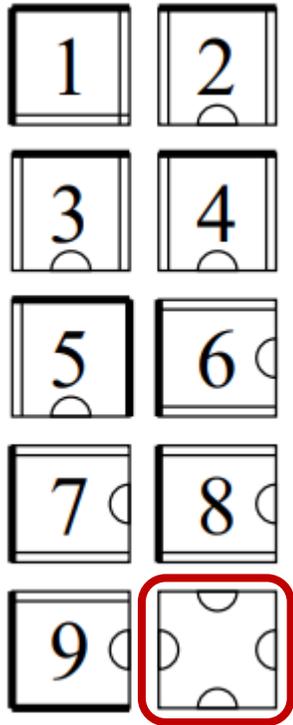


Tile complexity at temperature $\tau = 2$ (i.e., cooperative binding allowed)



strength-1 glues (with no other
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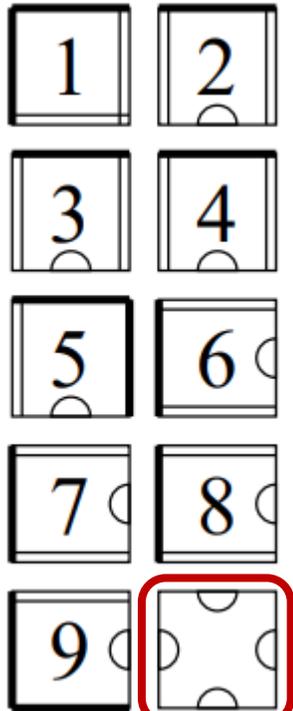
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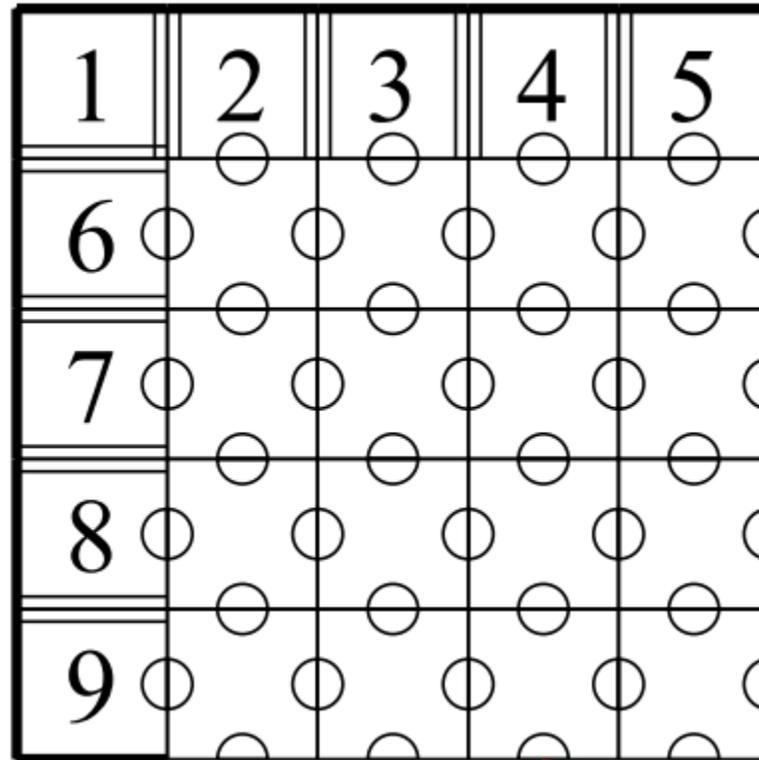
Tile complexity = $2n$

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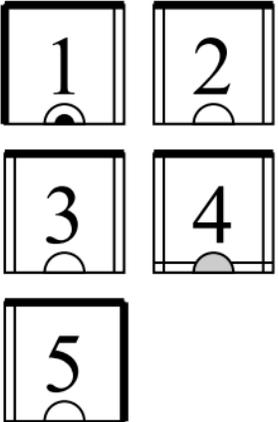
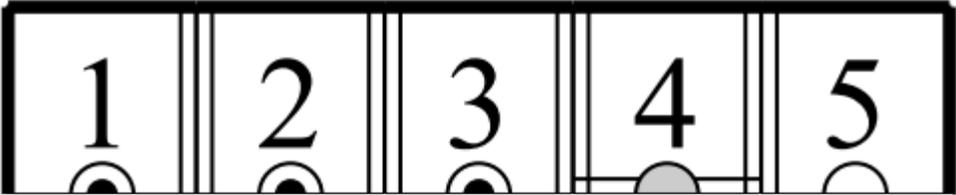


This tile completes an $n \times n$ "L shape" into an $n \times n$ square.

strength-1 glues (with no other glues to cooperate with)

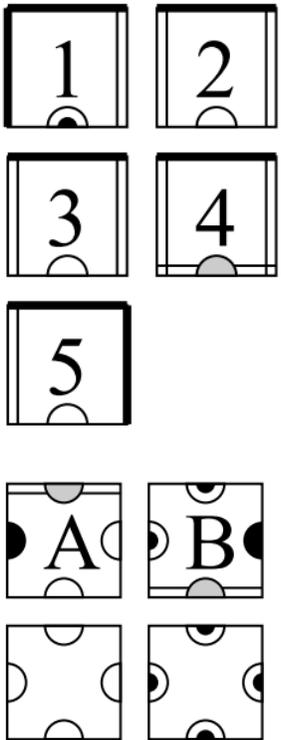
Tile complexity at temperature $\tau = 2$

Goal: complete a $1 \times n$ line
into an $n \times n$ square



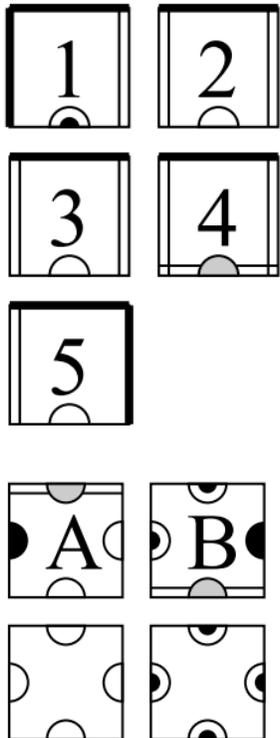
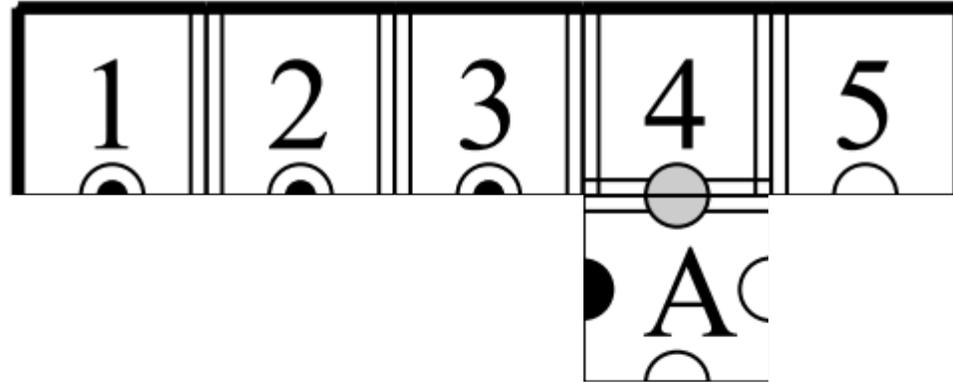
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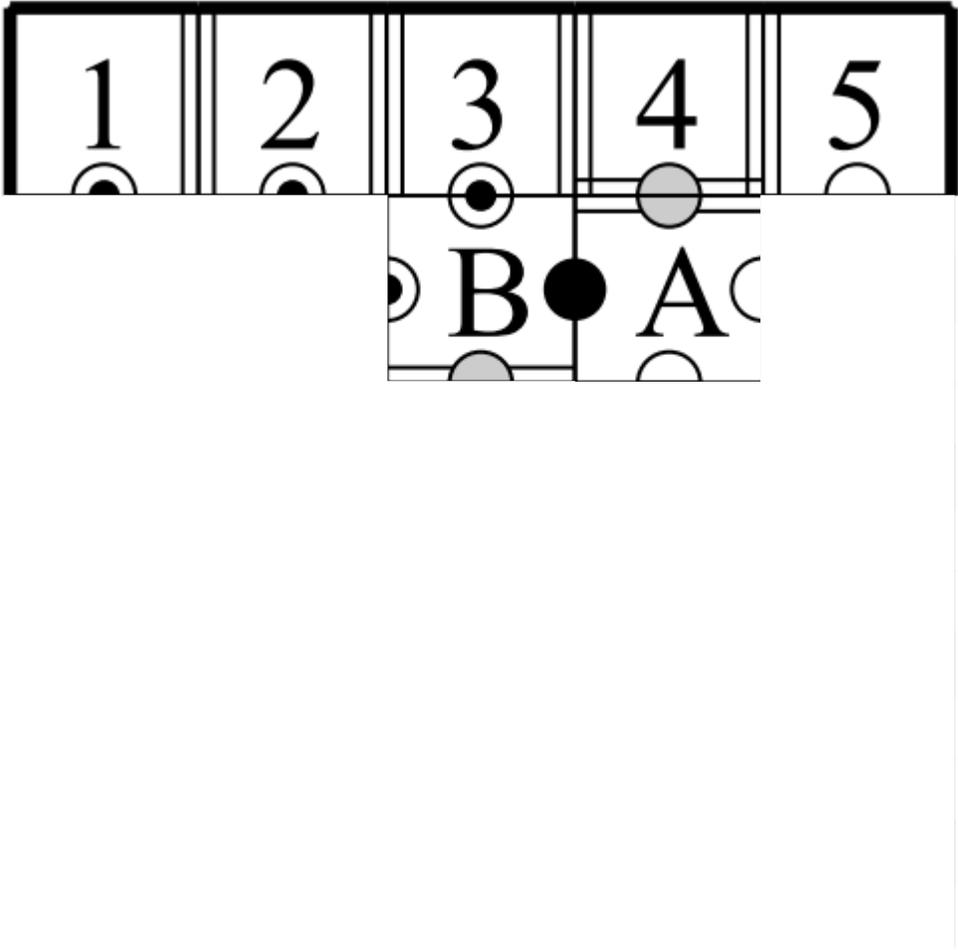
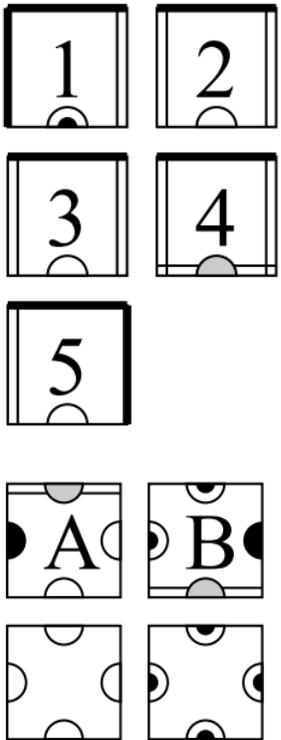
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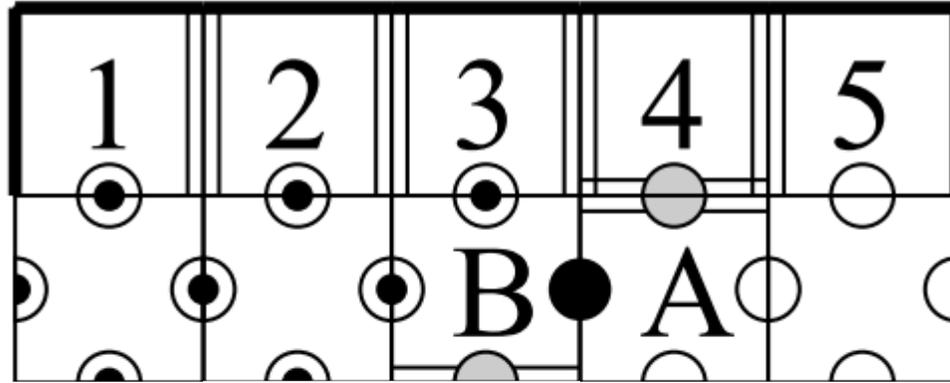
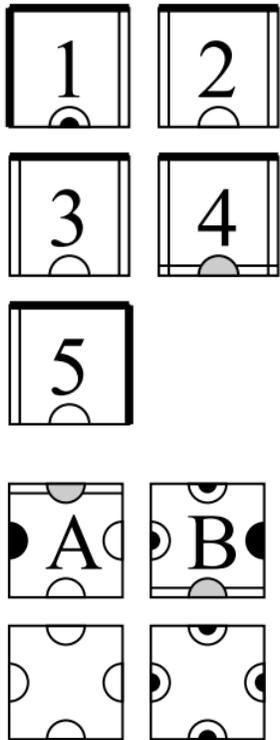
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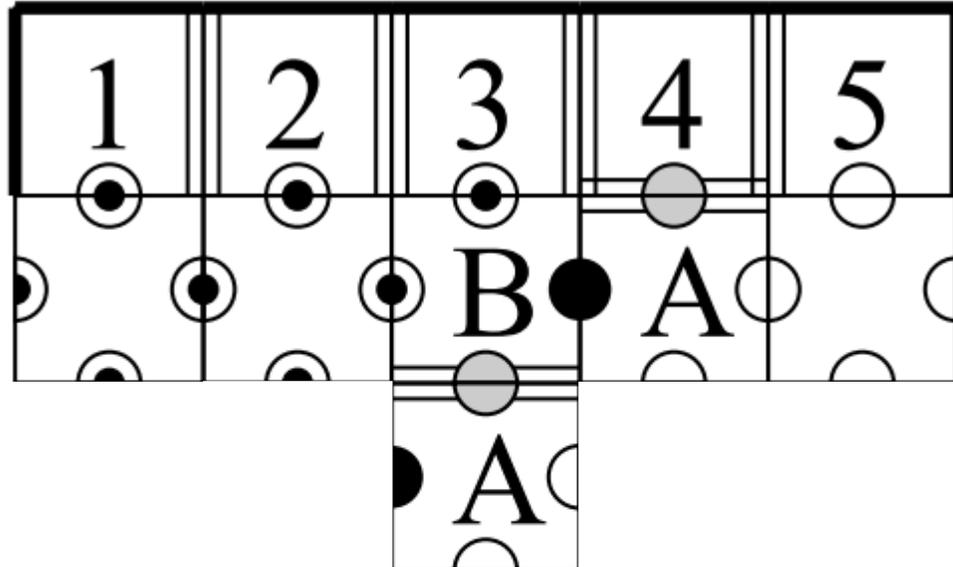
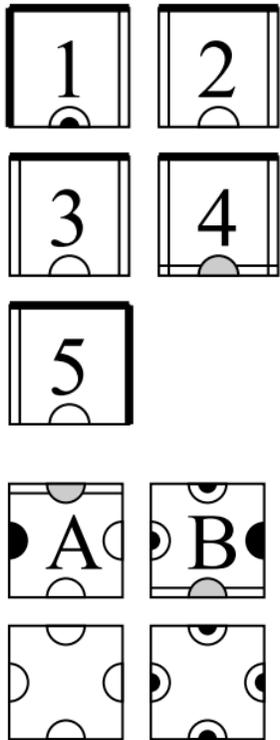
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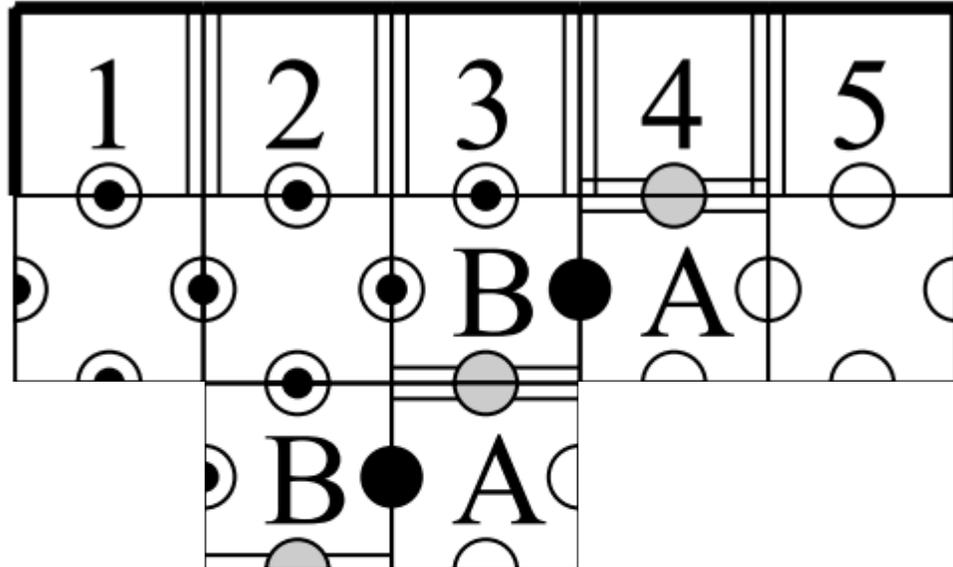
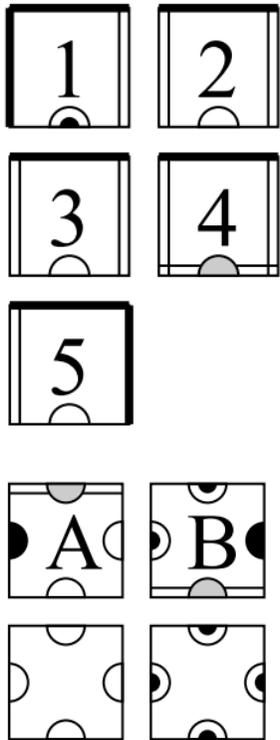
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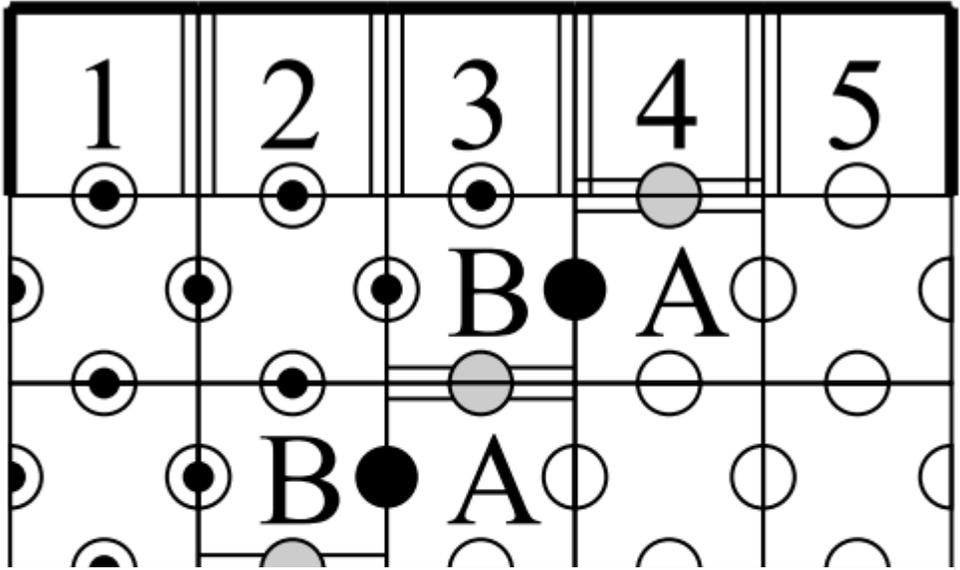
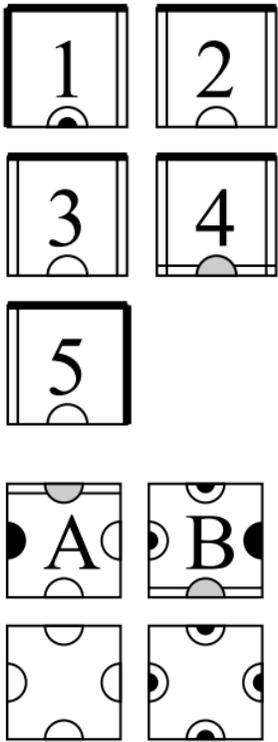
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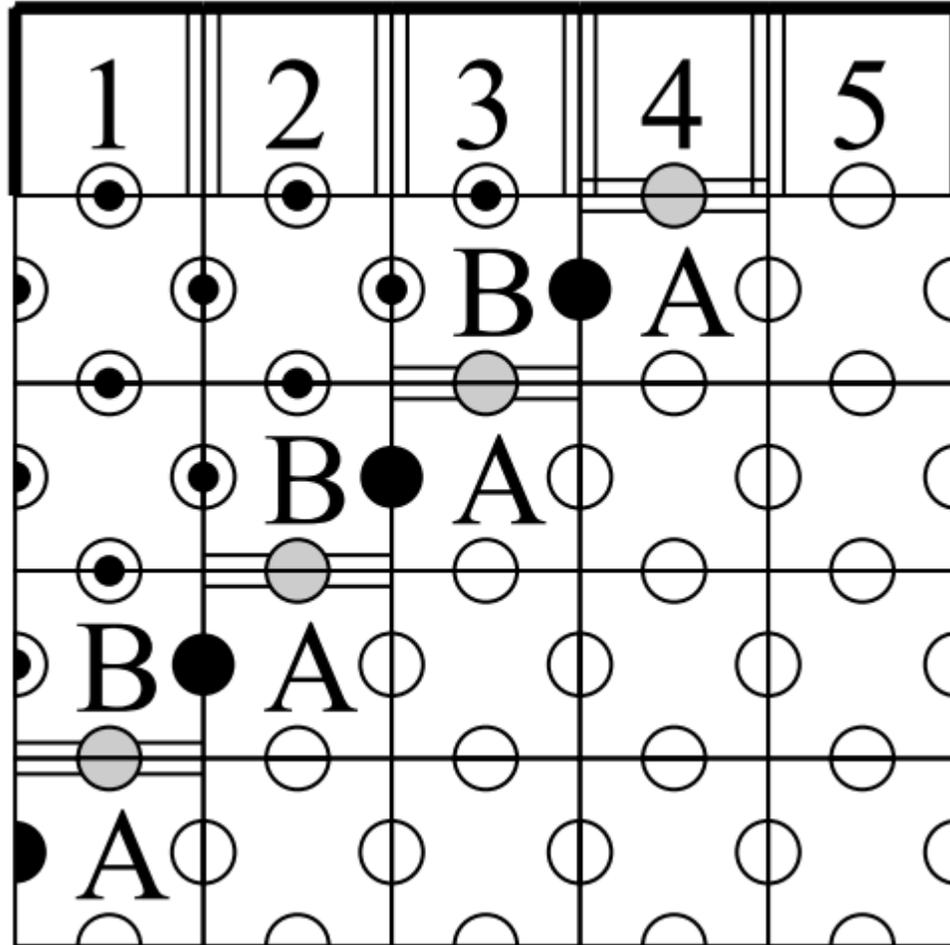
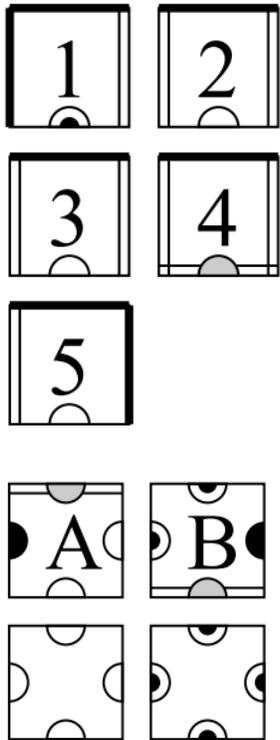
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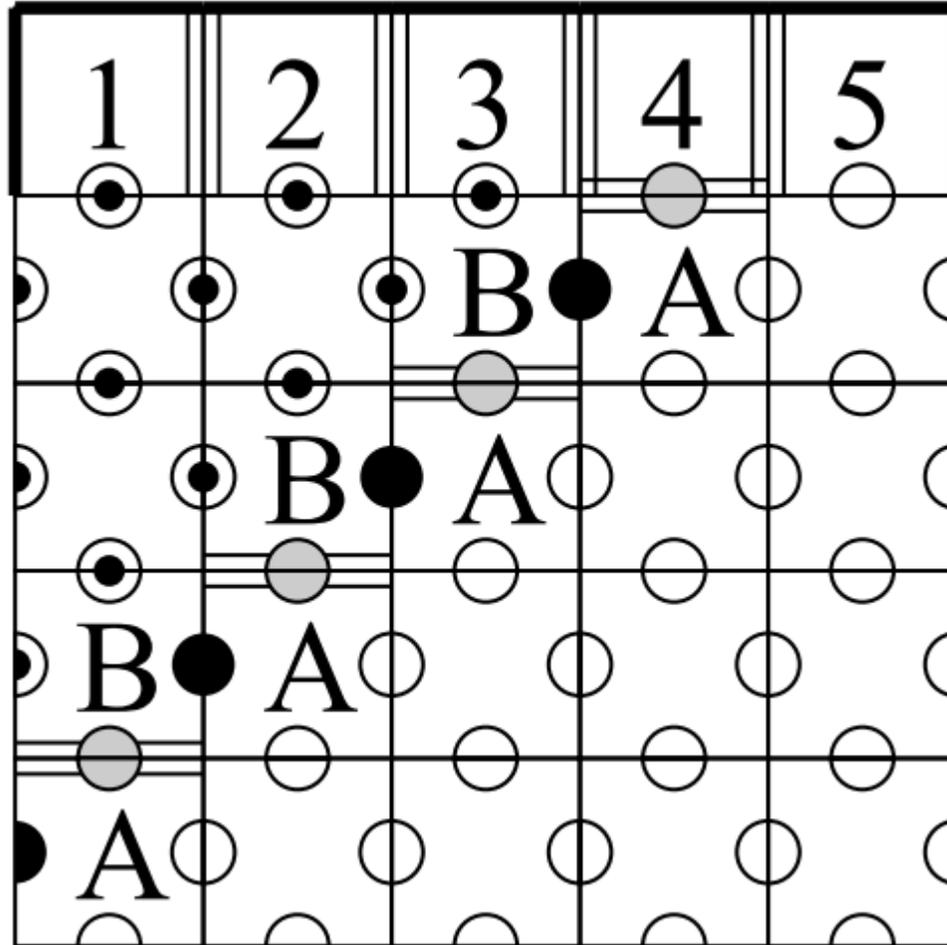
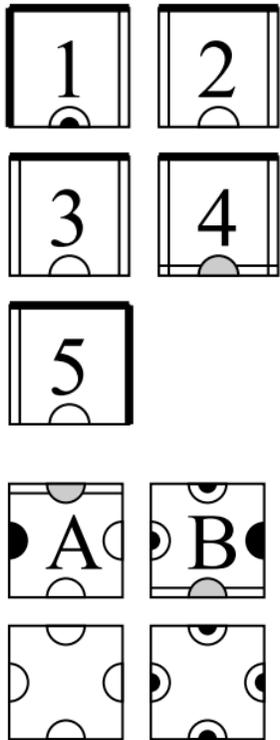
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Tile complexity at temperature $\tau = 2$

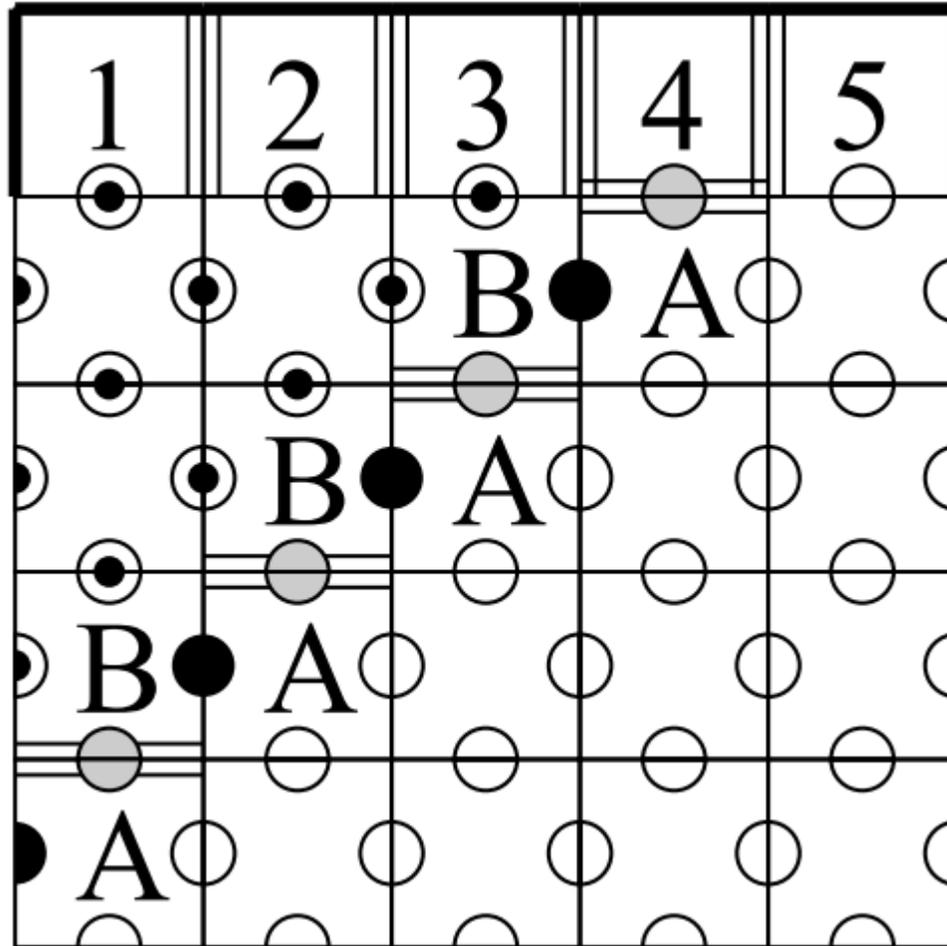
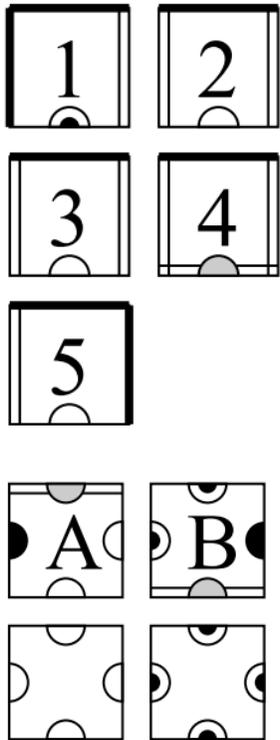
Goal: complete a $1 \times n$ line into an $n \times n$ square



Tile complexity = $n + 4$

Tile complexity at temperature $\tau = 2$

Goal: complete a $1 \times n$ line into an $n \times n$ square



Tile complexity = $n + 4$

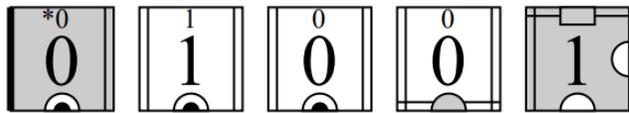
How to get *sublinear* tile complexity?

Logarithmic tile complexity at temperature $\tau = 2$

Goal: rectangle of height n
using $O(\log n)$ tile types

Logarithmic tile complexity at temperature $\tau = 2$

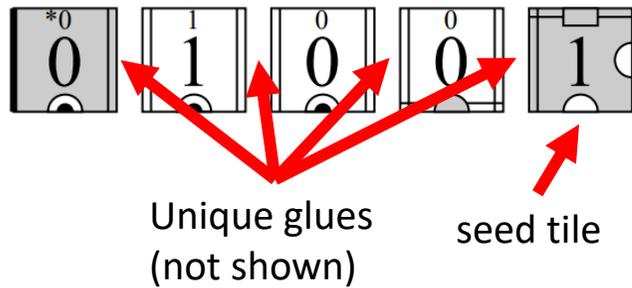
Goal: rectangle of height n
using $O(\log n)$ tile types



seed tile

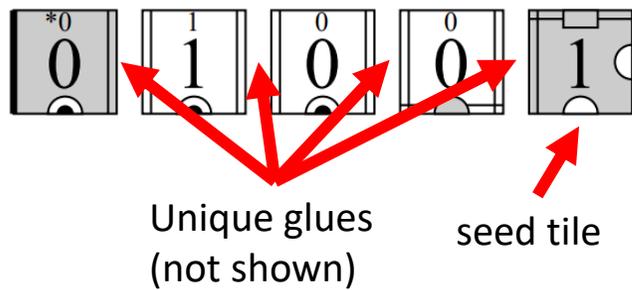
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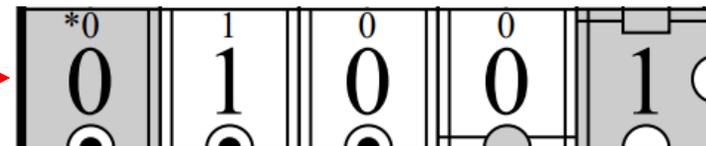


Logarithmic tile complexity at temperature $\tau = 2$

Goal: rectangle of height n
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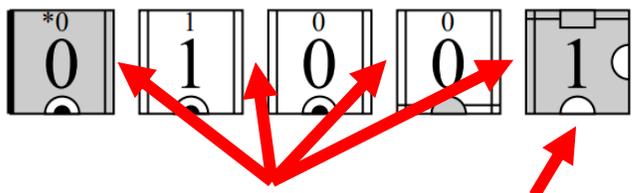
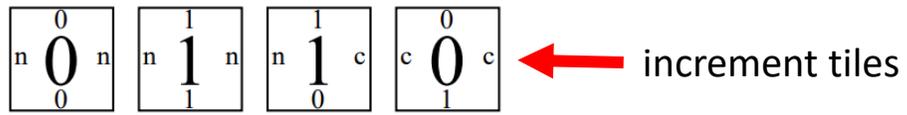


row encoding (a number related to) n

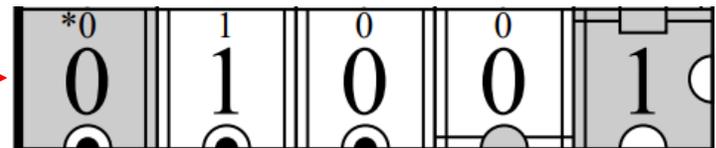


Logarithmic tile complexity at temperature $\tau = 2$

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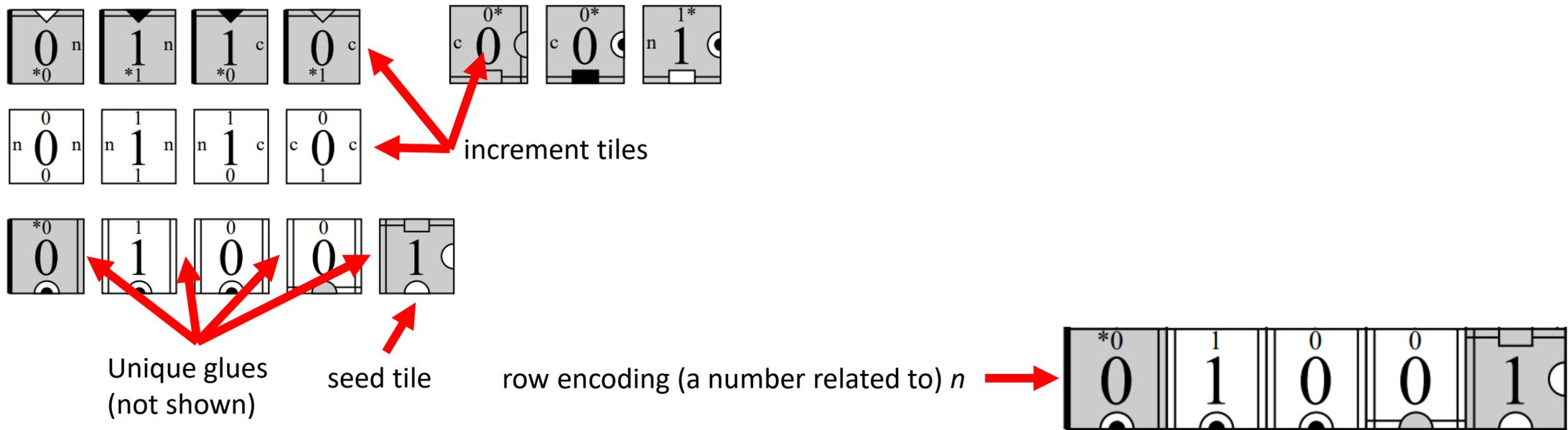


row encoding (a number related to) n →



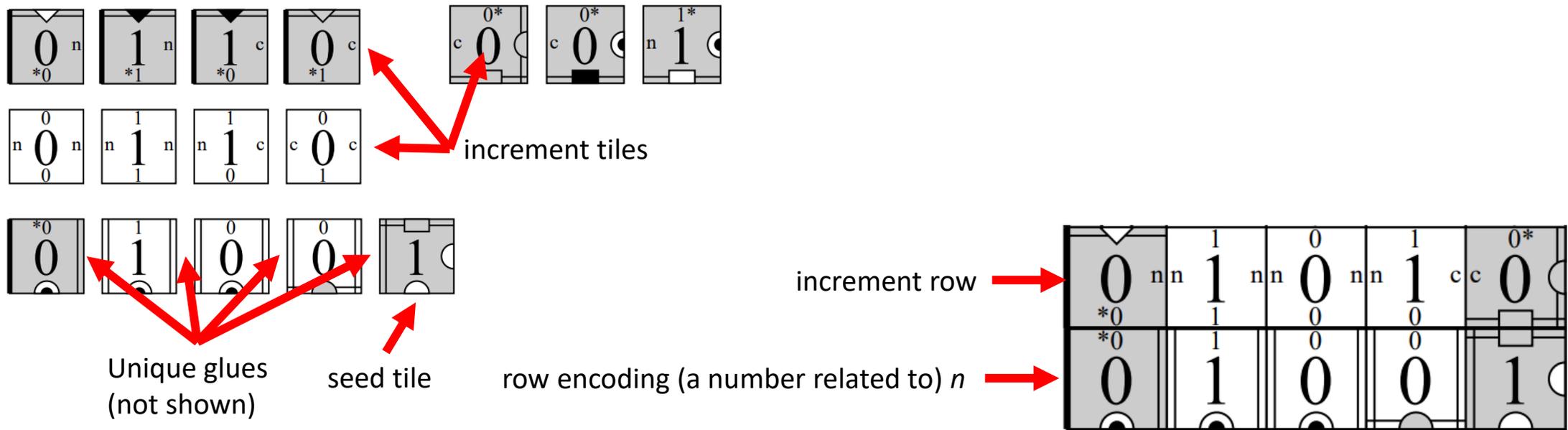
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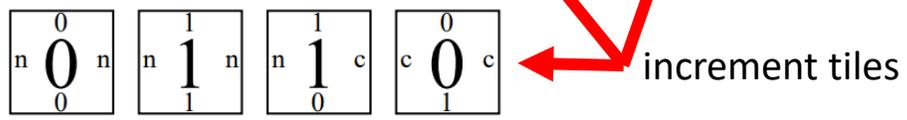
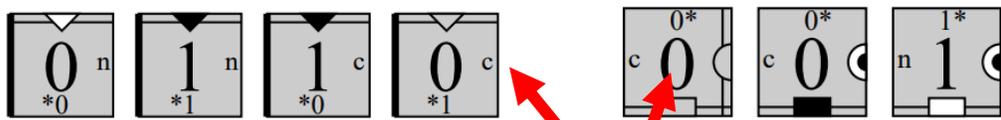
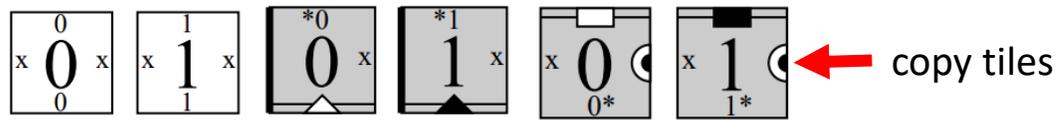
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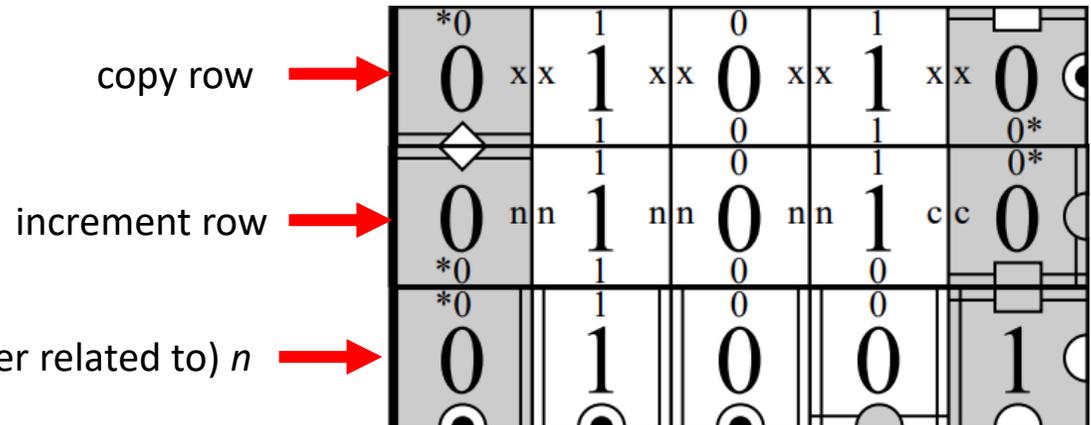
Logarithmic tile complexity at temperature $\tau = 2$

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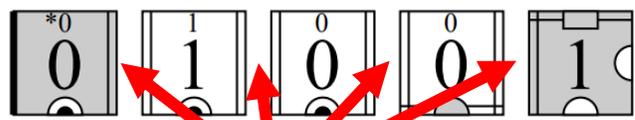
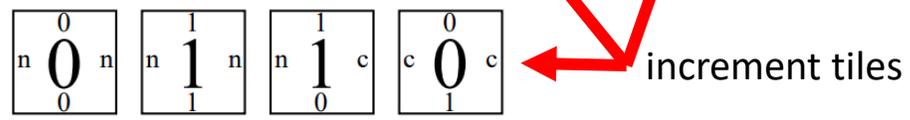
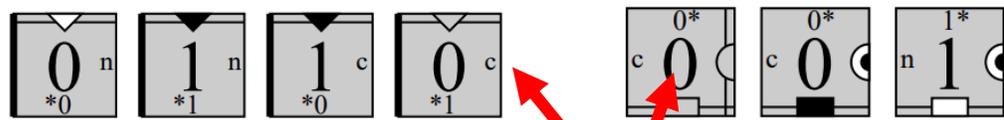
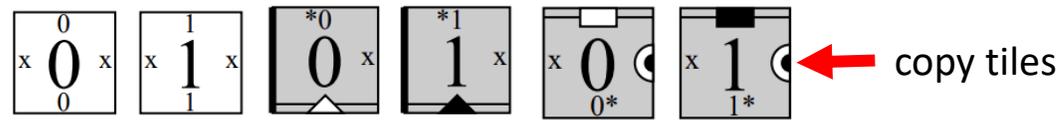
Unique glues
(not shown)

row encoding (a number related to) n



Logarithmic tile complexity at temperature $\tau = 2$

Goal: rectangle of height n
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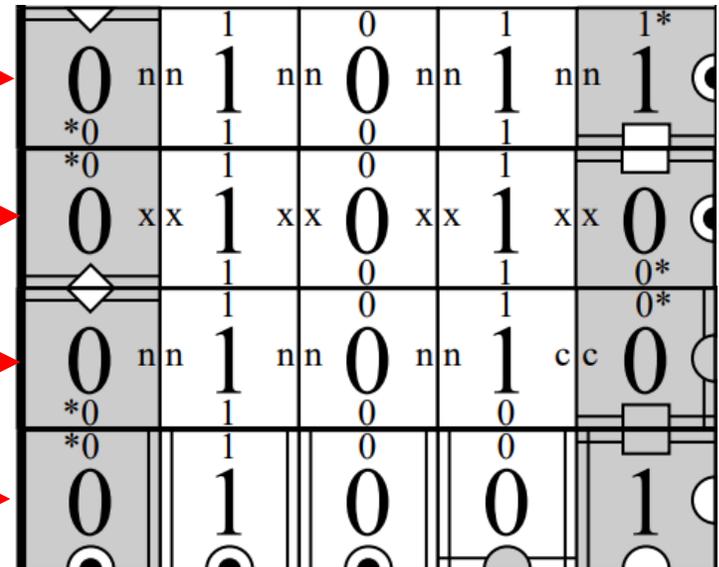


row encoding (a number related to) n

increment row

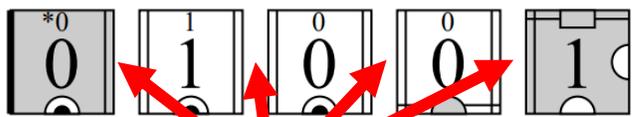
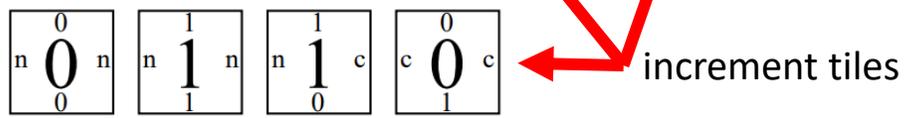
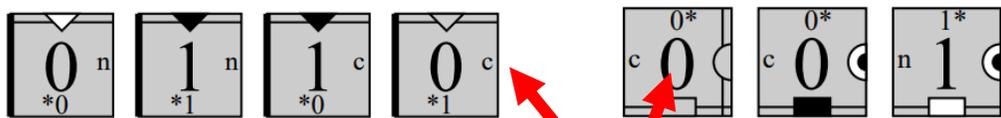
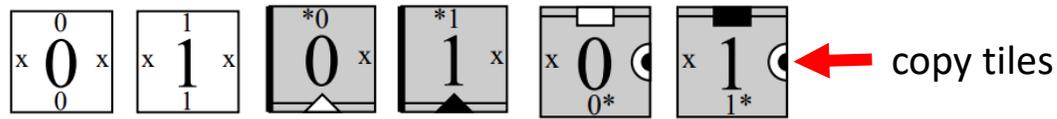
copy row

increment row



Logarithmic tile complexity at temperature $\tau = 2$

Goal: rectangle of height n using $O(\log n)$ tile types



Unique glues
(not shown)

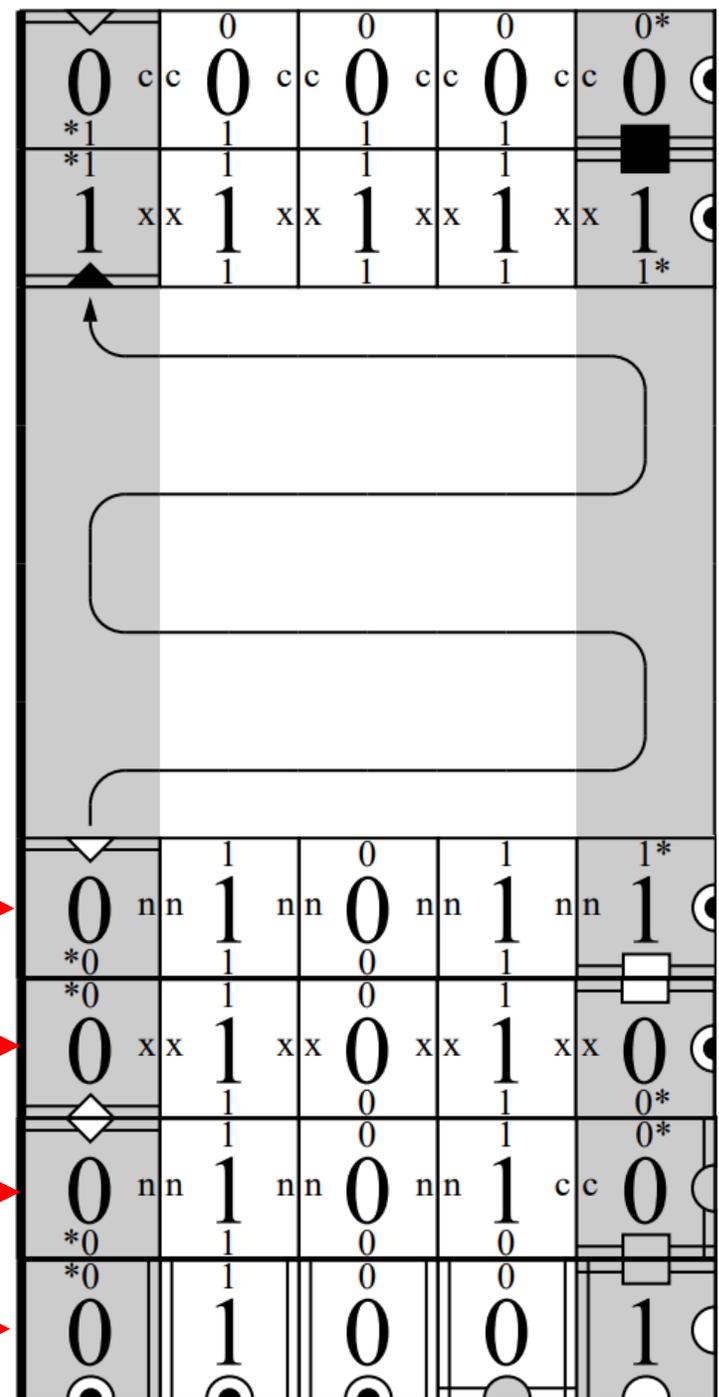
seed tile

row encoding (a number related to) n

increment row

copy row

increment row

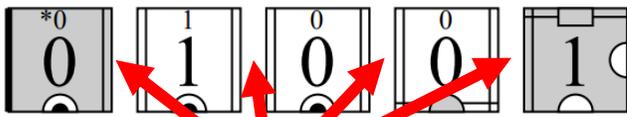
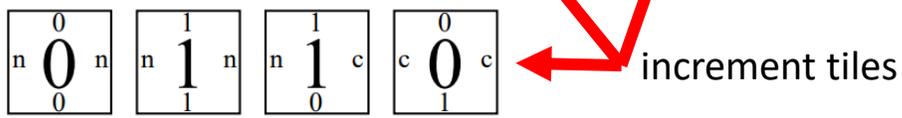
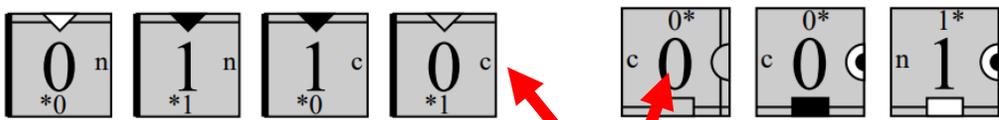
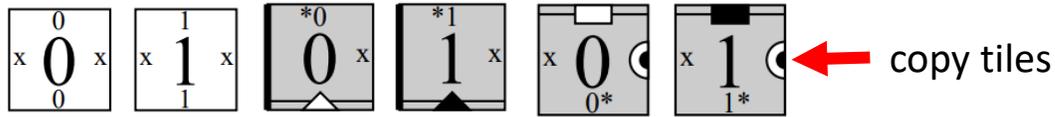


Logarithmic tile complexity at temperature $\tau = 2$

Goal: rectangle of height n using $O(\log n)$ tile types

for width of k bits, stops when it reaches what value?

“zig-zag counter”



Unique glues (not shown)

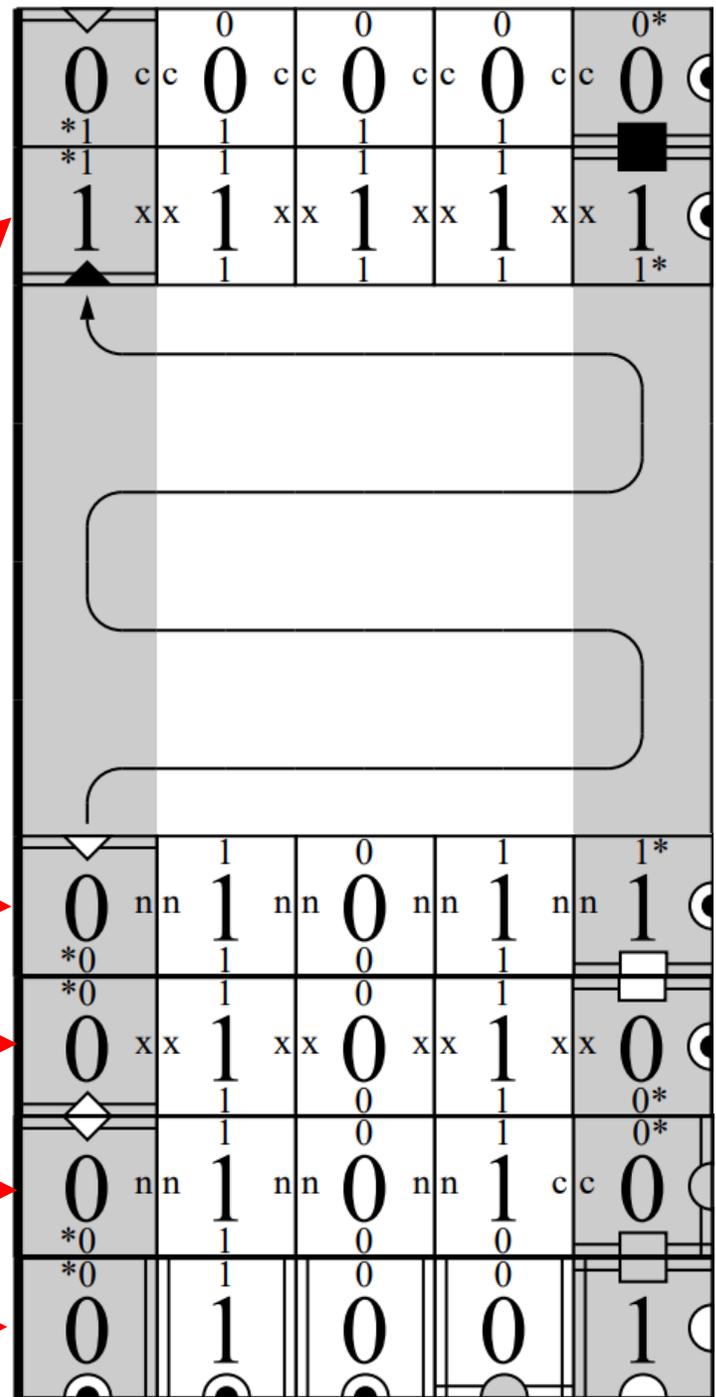
seed tile

row encoding (a number related to) n

increment row

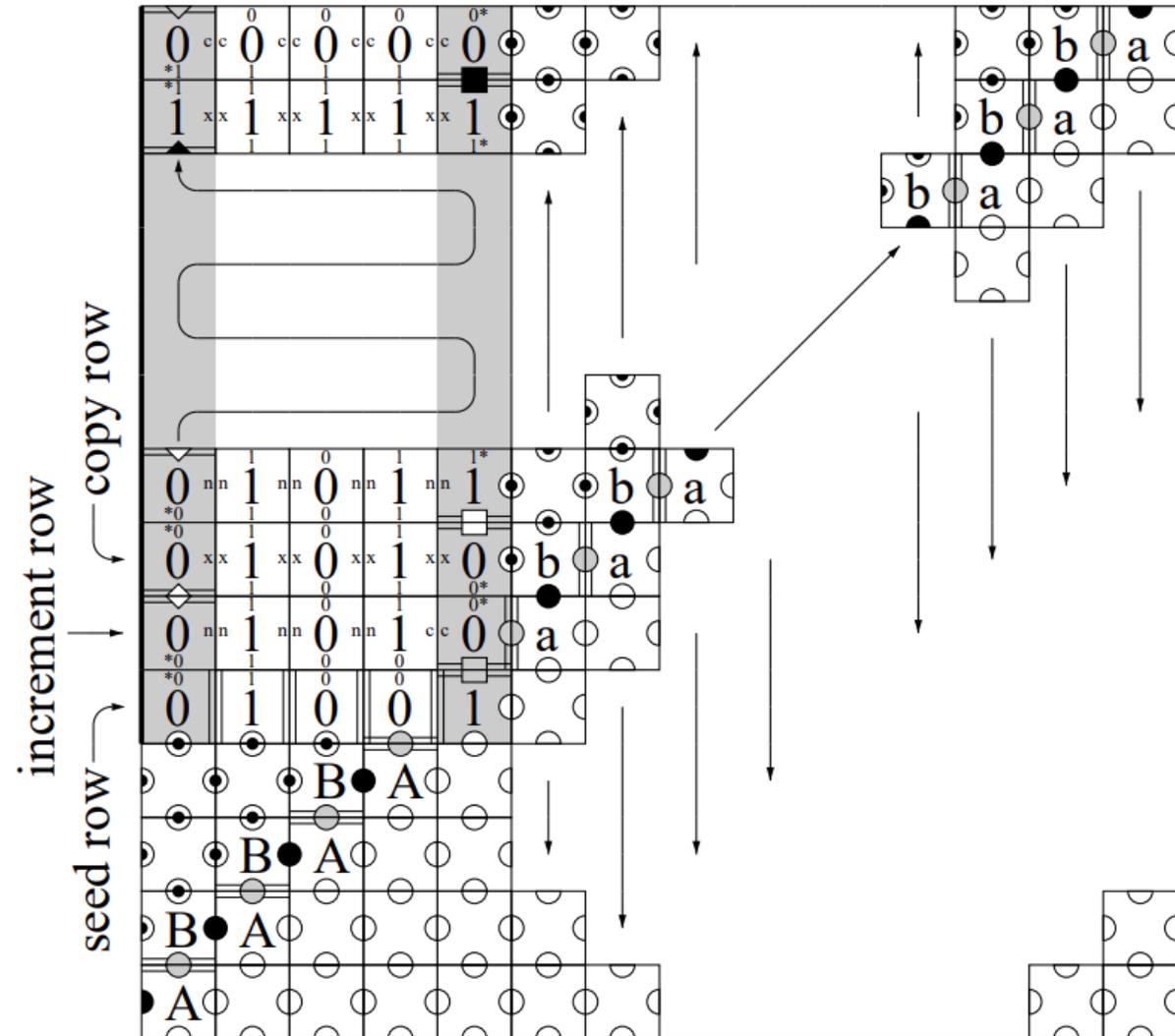
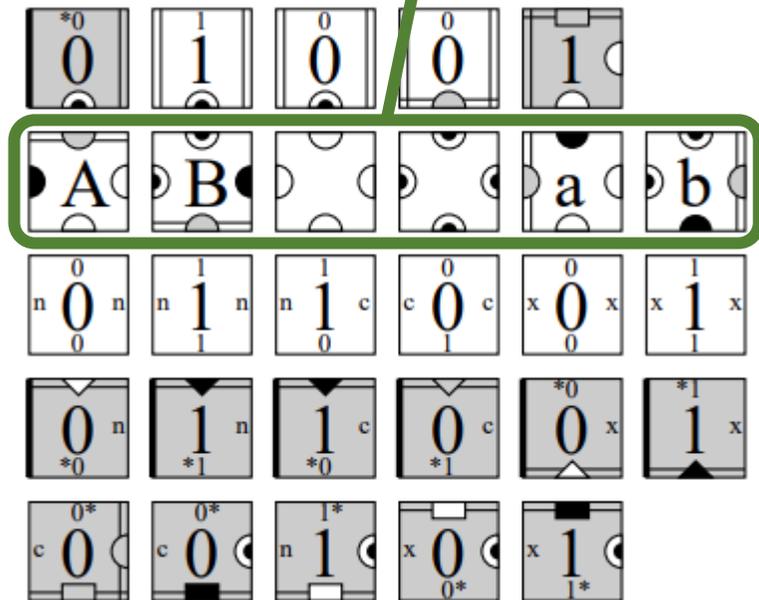
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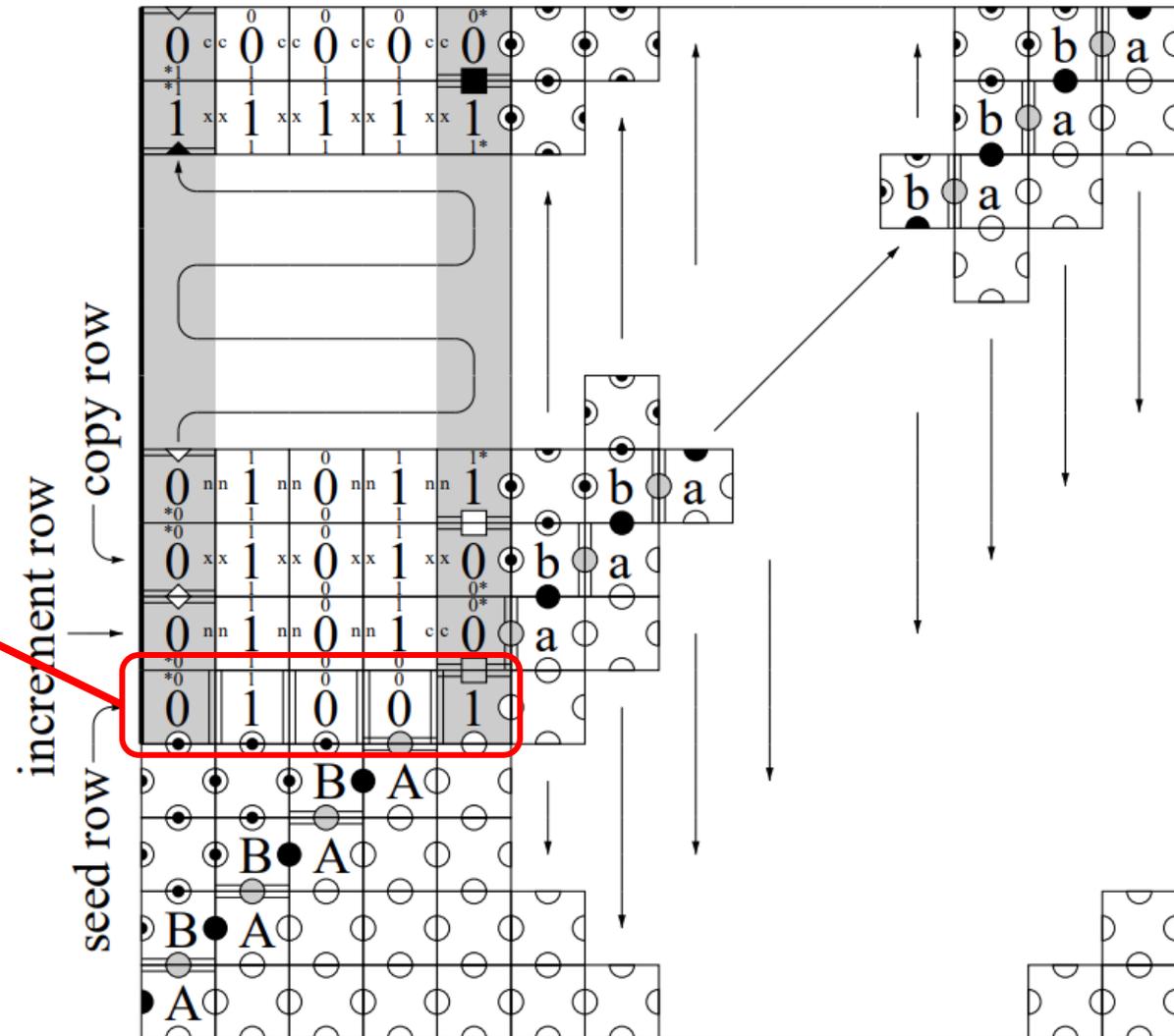
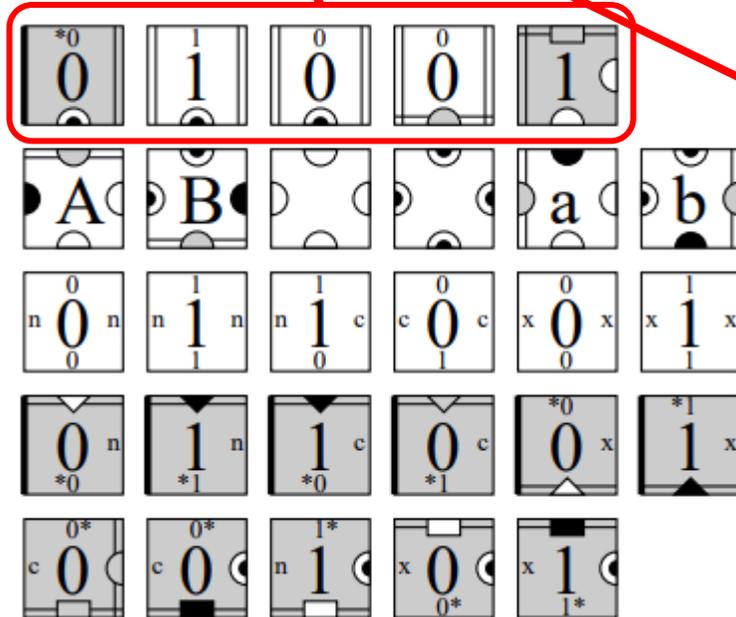
A few more "filler" tiles complete the $\approx n \times \log n$ rectangle into an $n \times n$ square.



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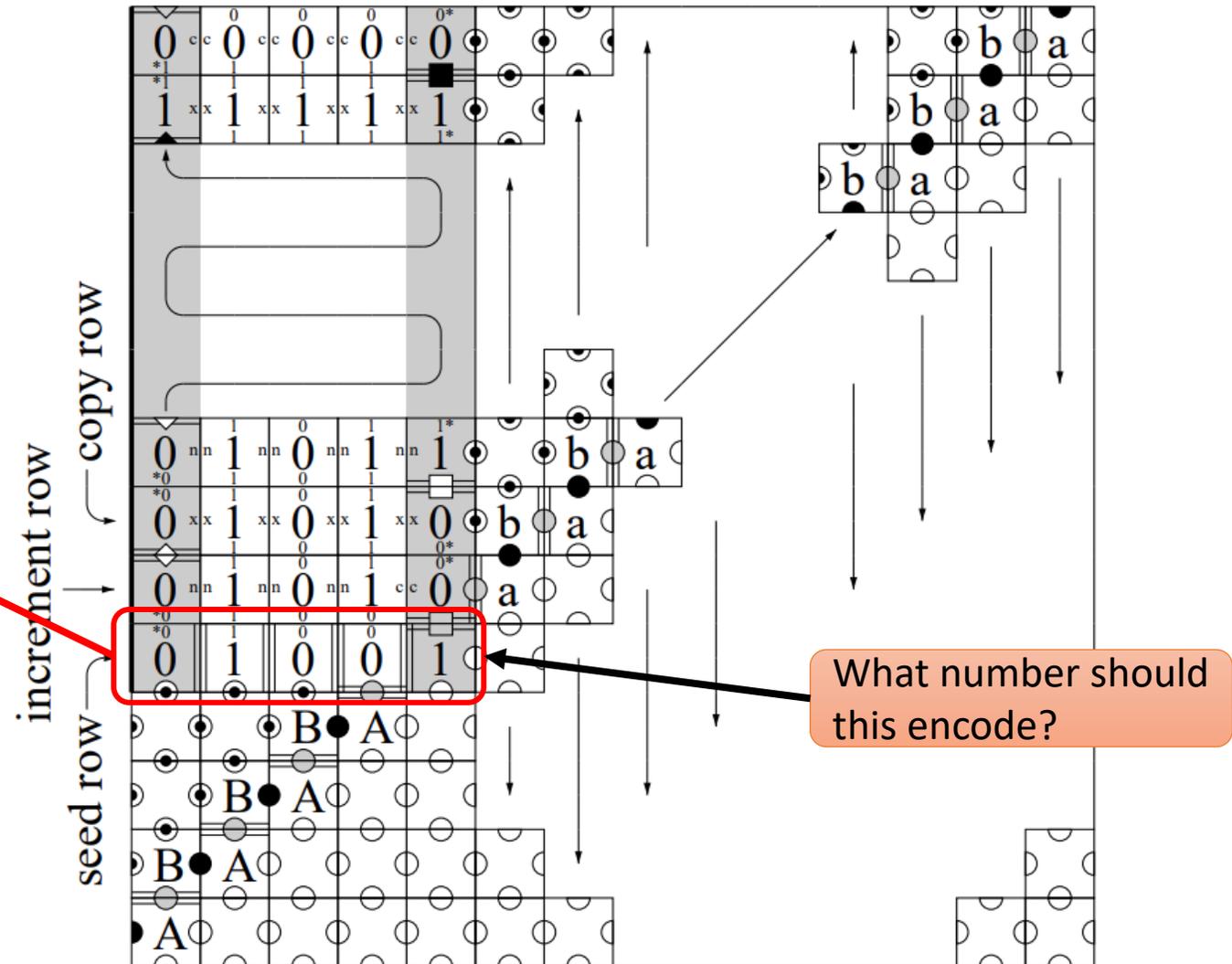
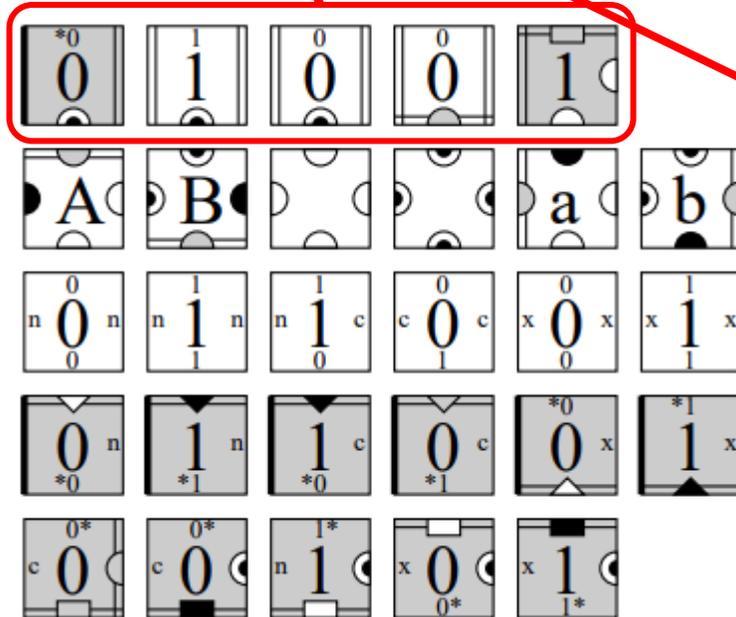
tile complexity =
 $\log n + 23$



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$\Omega(\log n / \log \log n)$ tile complexity lower bound for $n \times n$ squares

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 - Since $p \leq n/2$, we have $\frac{1}{4} \log p / \log \log p \leq \frac{1}{4} \log n / \log \log n$.
 - Since we can do this for every positive integer p , there are infinitely many n that require more than $\frac{1}{4} \log n / \log \log n$ tile types (a stronger result holds: "most" values of n require that many)

How many tile systems with k tile types?

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- **Goal:** show that there are fewer than p (“functionally distinct”) tile systems with $k = \frac{1}{4} \log p / \log \log p$ tile types.

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- How many tile systems? $c \cdot d = k(4k)^{4k}$

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- Number of tile systems with exactly k tile types: $\leq k(4k)^{4k}$

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- Number of tile systems with at most k tile types: $\leq k^2(4k)^{4k}$
- Recall $k = \frac{1}{4} \log p / \log \log p$; by algebra (see notes), $k^2(4k)^{4k} < p$.

How many tile systems with k tile types?

- Number of tile systems with exactly k tile types: $\leq k(4k)^{4k}$
- Number of tile systems with at most k tile types: $\leq k^2(4k)^{4k}$
- Recall $k = \frac{1}{4} \log p / \log \log p$; by algebra (see notes), $k^2(4k)^{4k} < p$.
- By pigeonhole principle, for some width n with $p < n \leq 2p$, the $n \times n$ square is not self-assembled by one of these $k^2(4k)^{4k}$ tile systems. Since those are **all the tile systems with at most k tile types**, the $n \times n$ square requires **more** than $\frac{1}{4} \log p / \log \log p$ tile types to self-assemble. **QED**

“Descriptive Complexity” proof

- Can be formalized with *Kolmogorov complexity*
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kolmogorov_complexity

Fact: “most” integers n require $\geq \log n$ bits to “describe”.

(Though some require fewer:
1111111111111111111111
can be described by its length
22 in binary: 10110)

“Descriptive Complexity” proof

- Can be formalized with *Kolmogorov complexity*
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kolmogorov_complexity
- We can “describe” n with a tile system that self-assembles an $n \times n$ square.

Fact: “most” integers n require $\geq \log n$ bits to “describe”.

(Though some require fewer:
1111111111111111111111
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Note: we’re ignoring glue strengths here; adds 2 bits per glue to describe at temperature 2. (since there are 3 possible strengths 0, 1, 2); see <http://doi.org/10.1007/s00453-014-9879-3> for handling higher-temperature systems.

Which bound is tight?

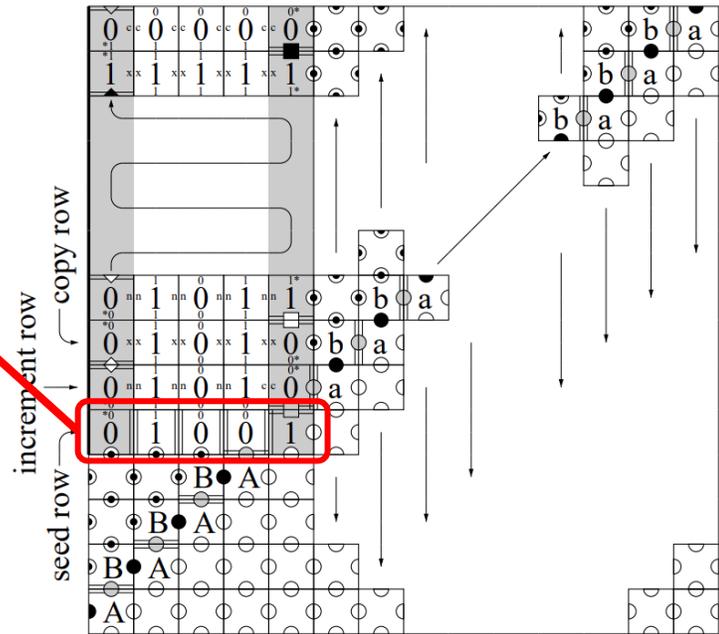
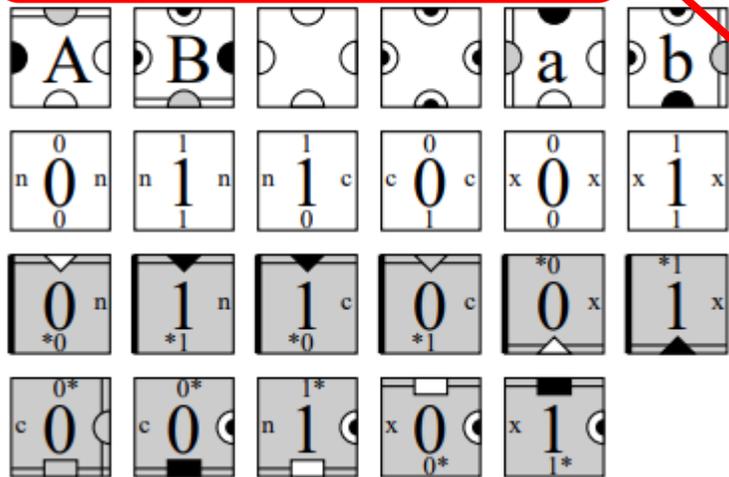
1. All $n \times n$ squares can be assembled with $O(\log n)$ tile types; can we get it down to $O(\log n / \log \log n)$?
2. Or do we need $\Omega(\log n)$ tile types to assemble infinitely many $n \times n$ squares?

Improved upper bound: self-assembling an $n \times n$ square with $O(\log n / \log \log n)$ tile types

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Recall:

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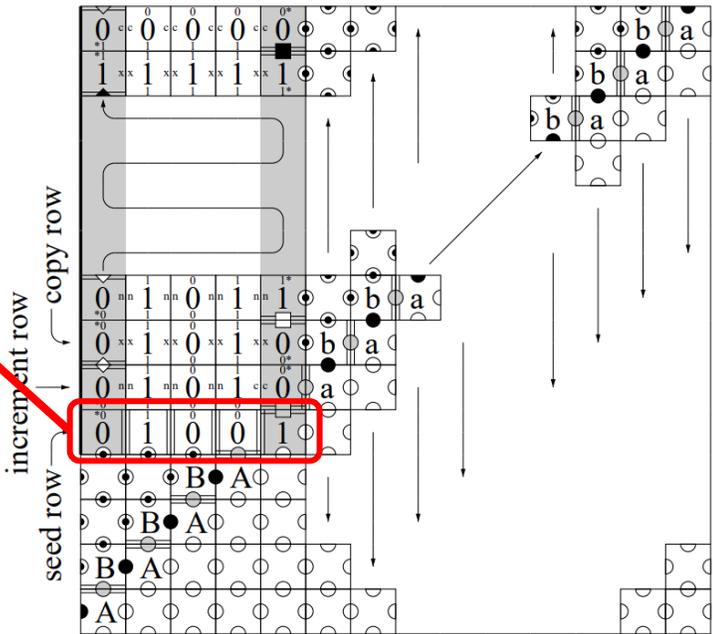
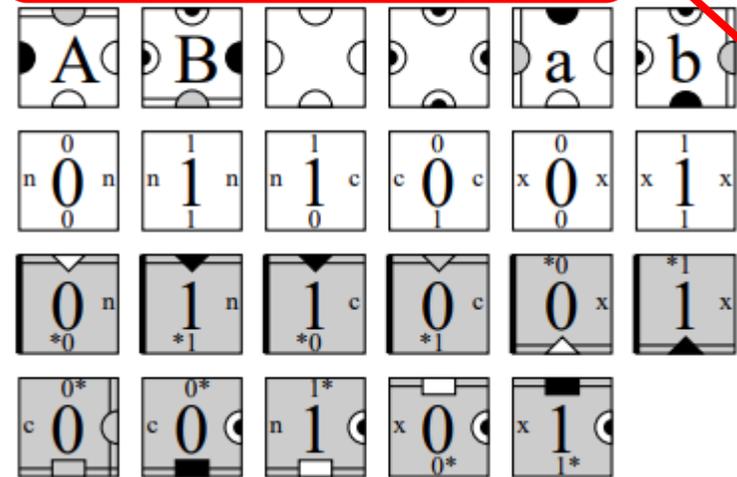
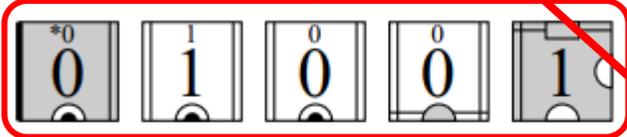
Improved upper bound: self-assembling an $n \times n$ square with $O(\log n / \log \log n)$ tile types

Recall:

Idea:

- 1) Use same 23 tiles that turn the seed row encoding a binary integer n' (related to n) into an $n \times n$ square.
- 2) Create the binary seed row from only $\log n / \log \log n$ tiles.

tile complexity = $O(\log n) + 23$



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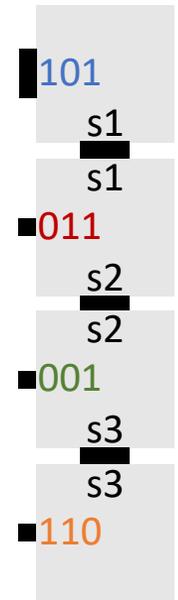
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 - e.g., if $b=2^3=8$, then $0=000$ $1=001$ $2=010$ $3=011$ $4=100$ $5=101$ $6=110$ $7=111$
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 - need $\log(n) / k = \log(n) / \log (\log n / \log \log n) = \log(n) / (\log \log n - \log \log \log n) \approx \log(n) / \log \log n$ base- b digits.

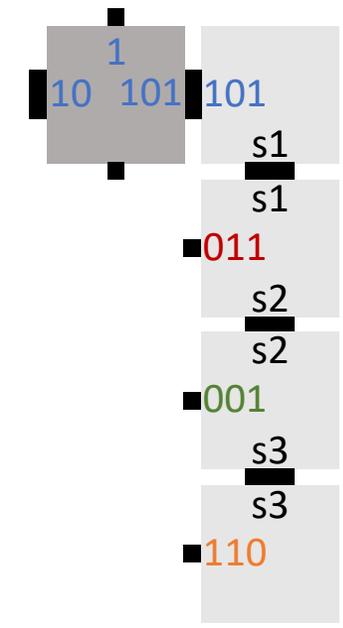
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hard-coded tiles:



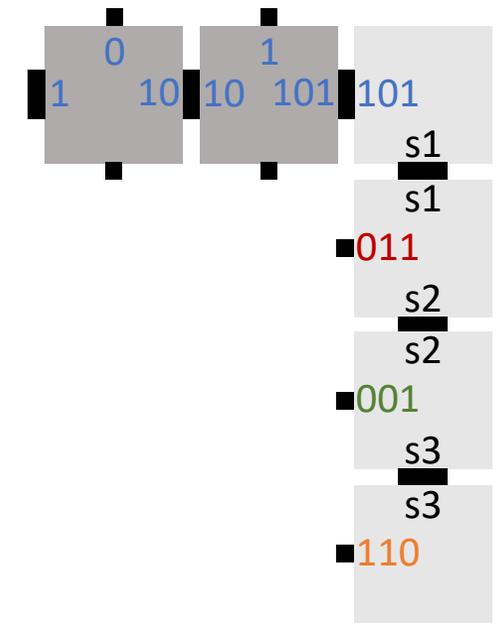
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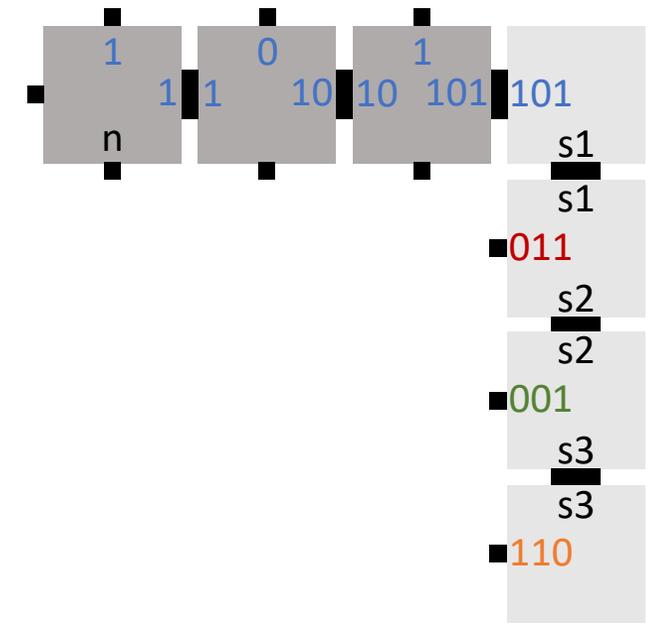
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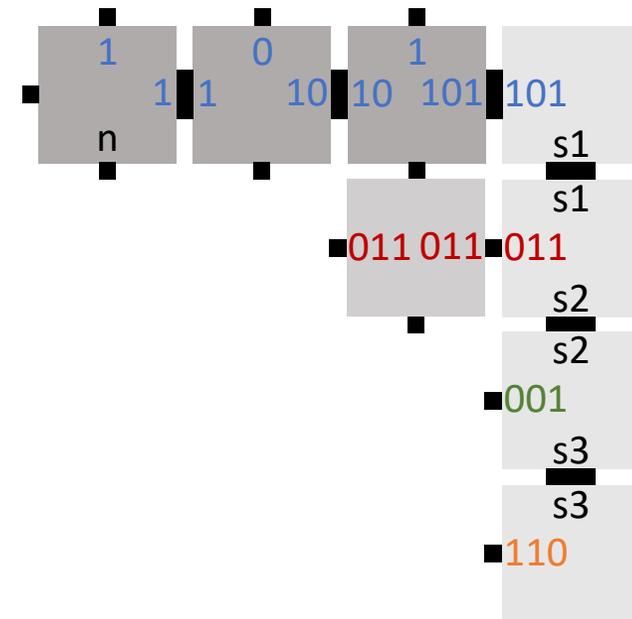
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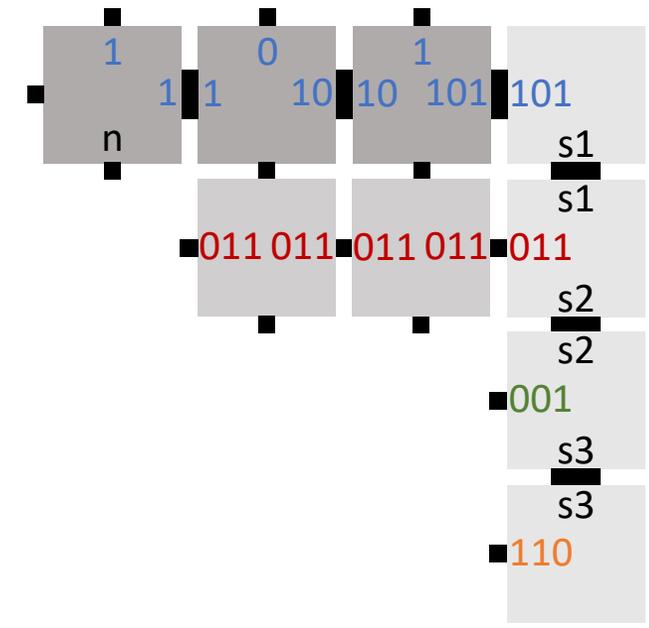
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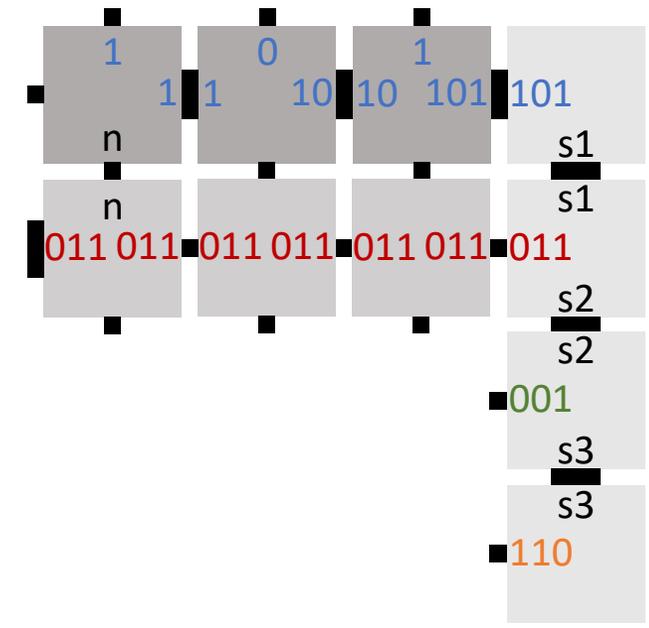
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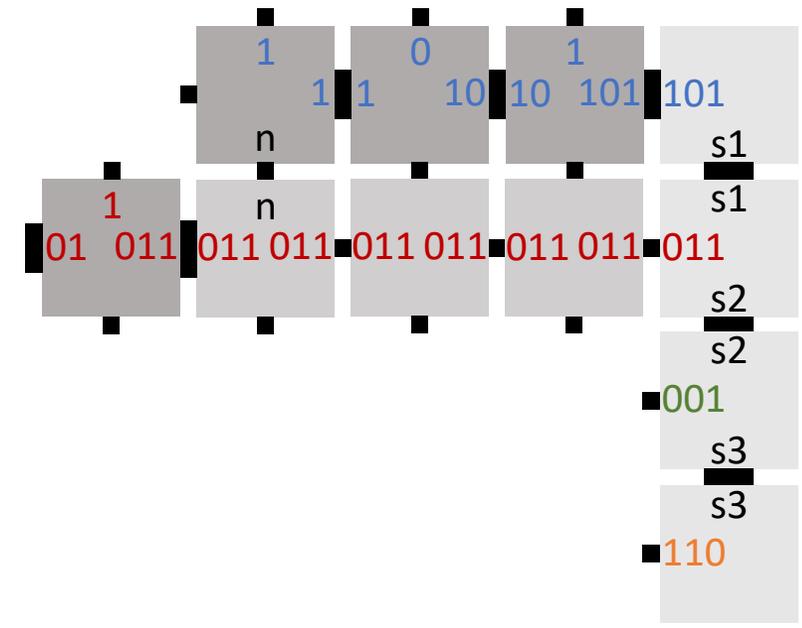
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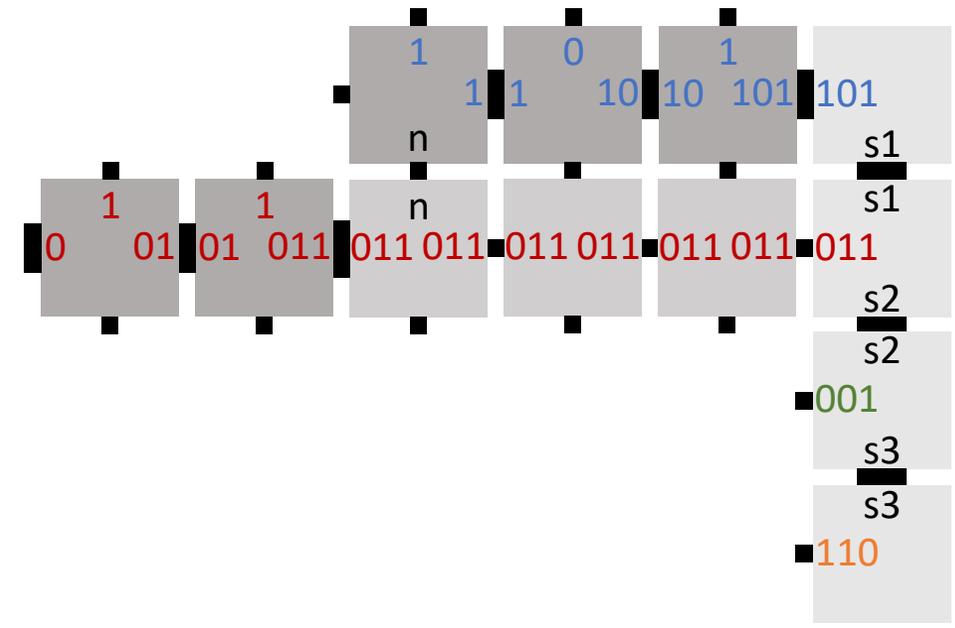
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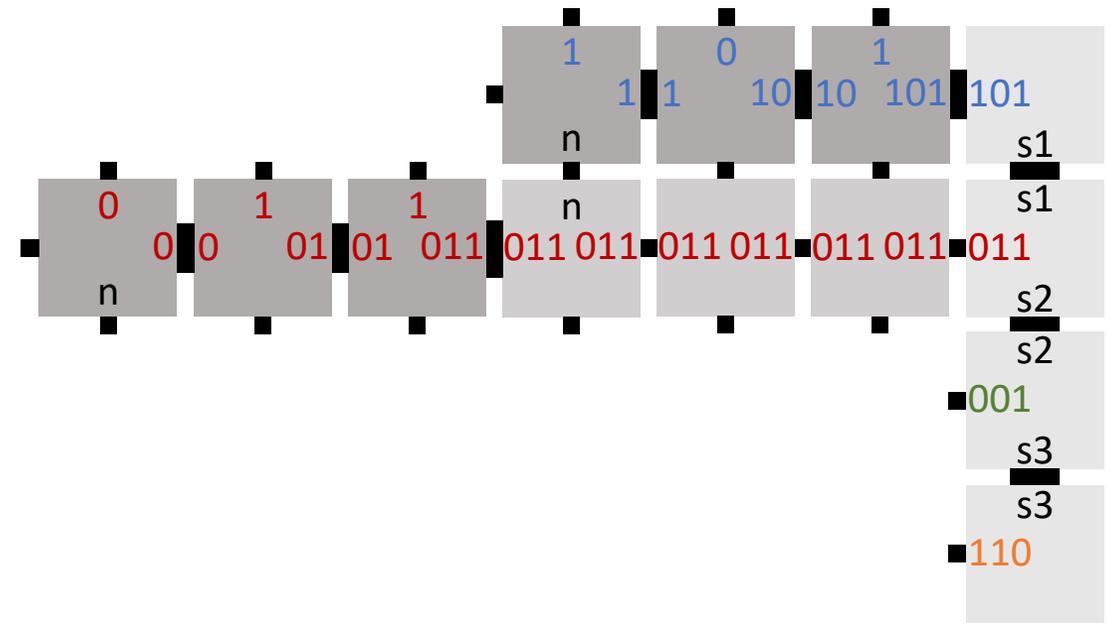
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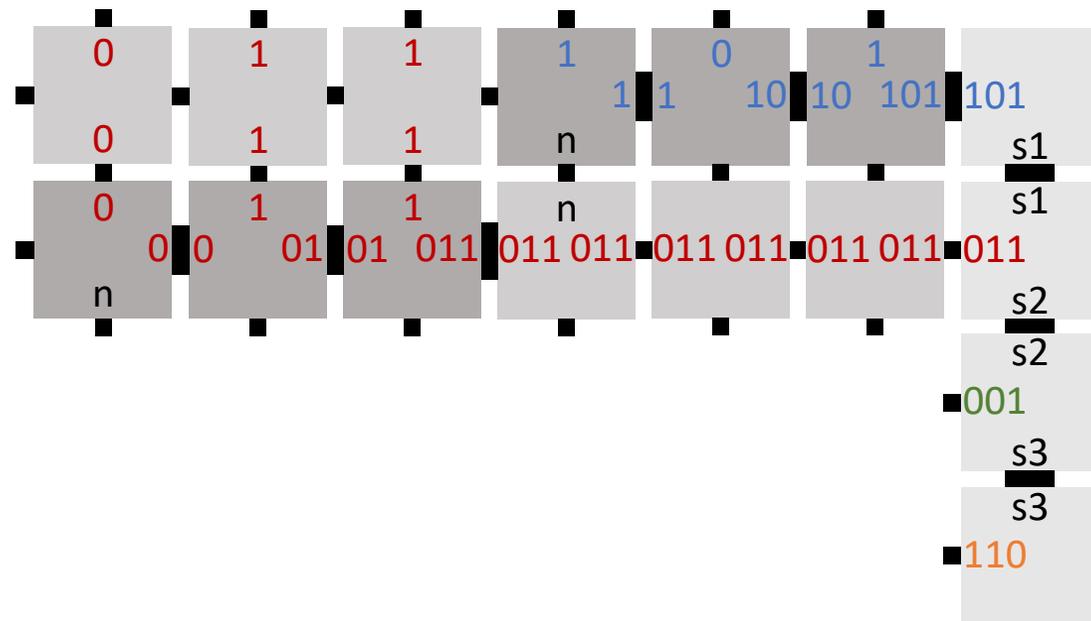
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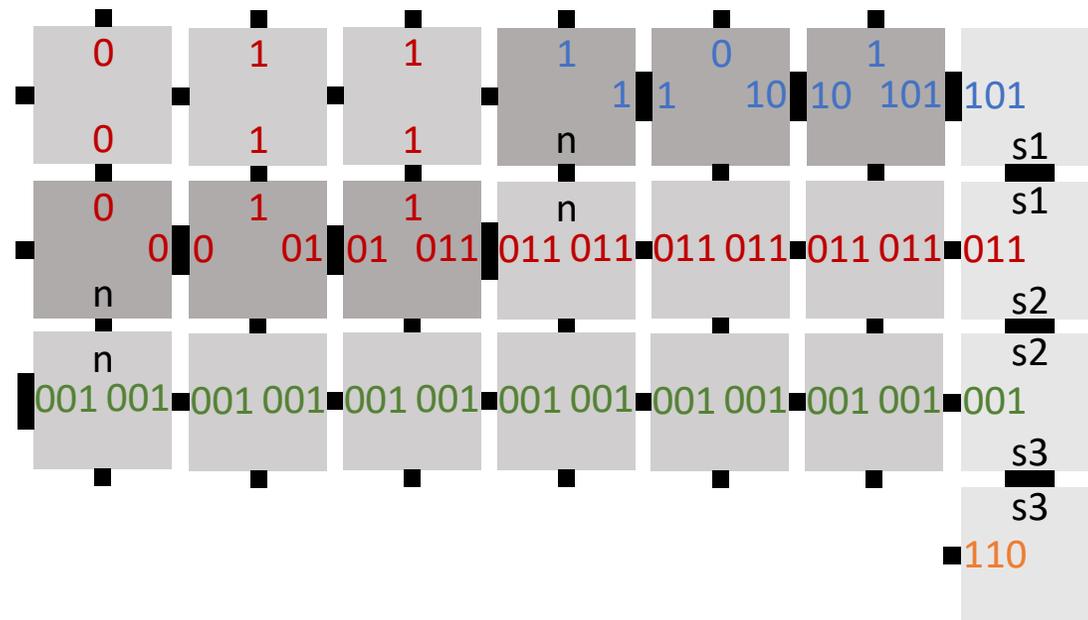
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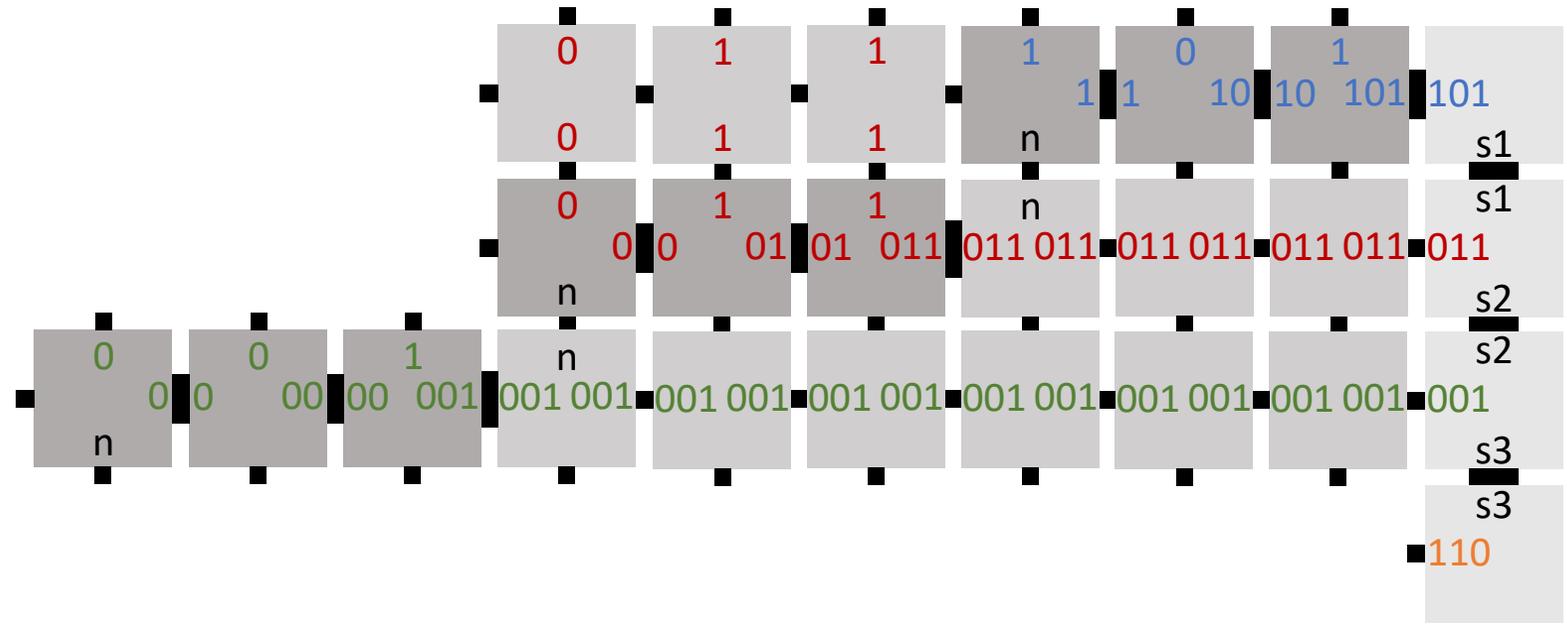
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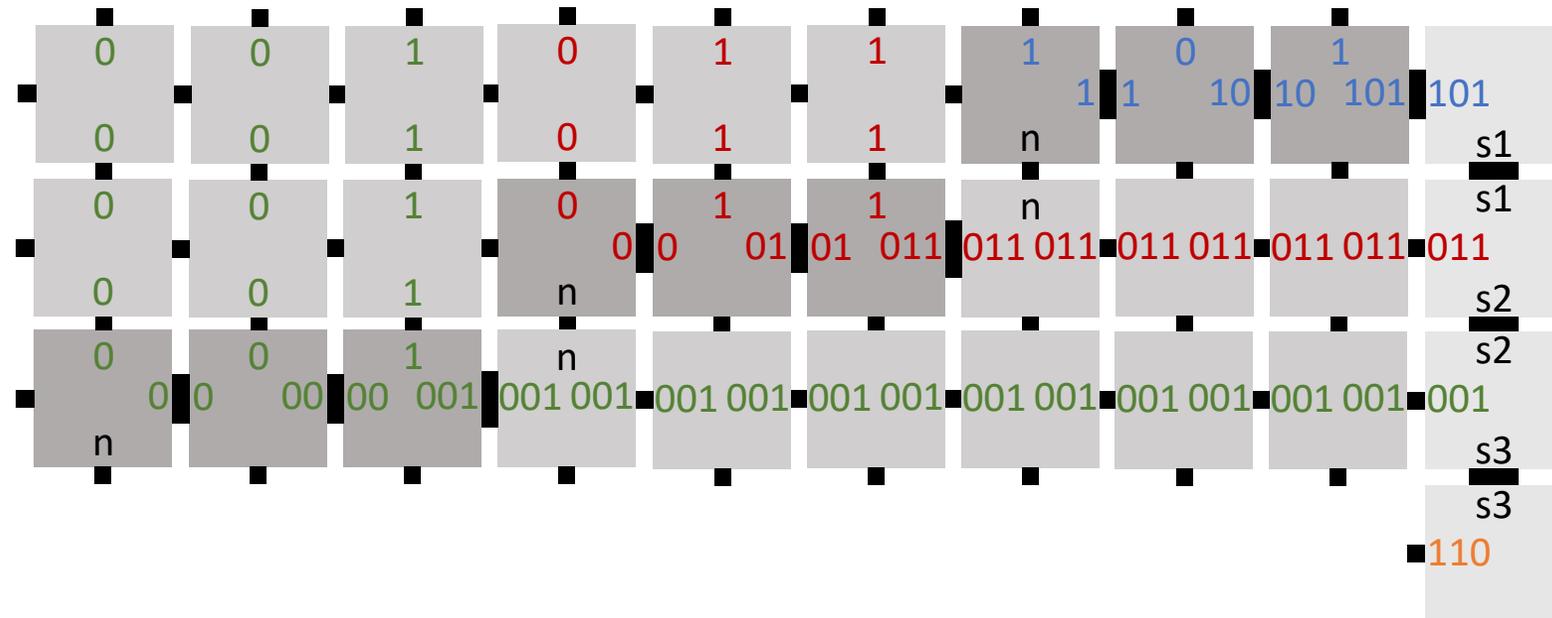
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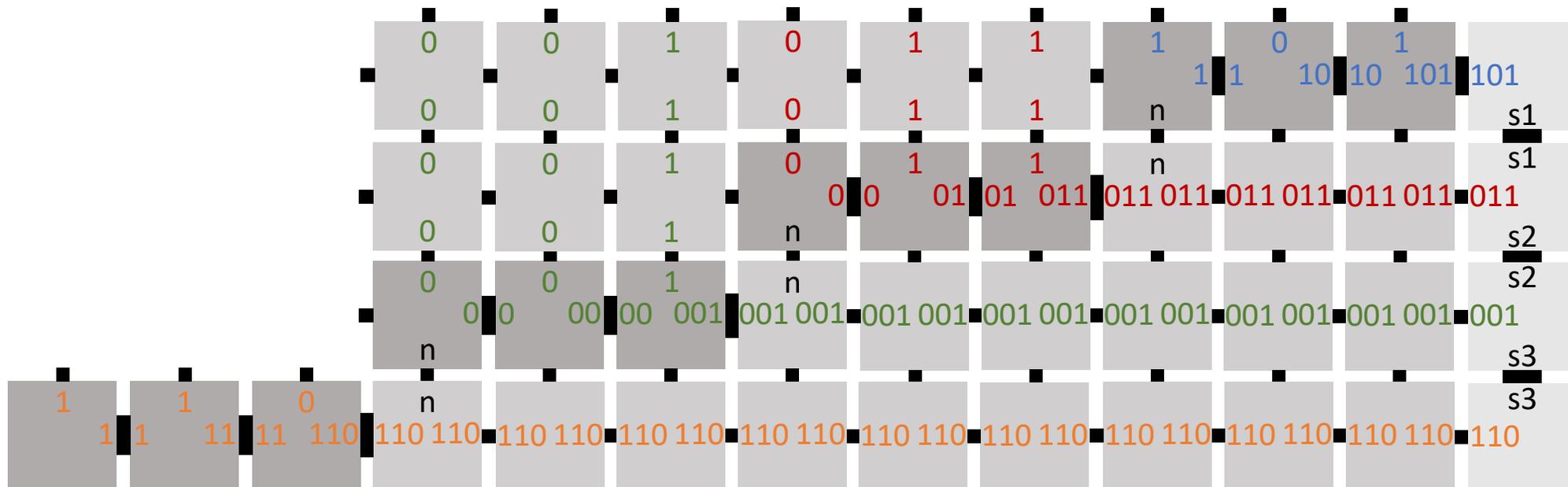
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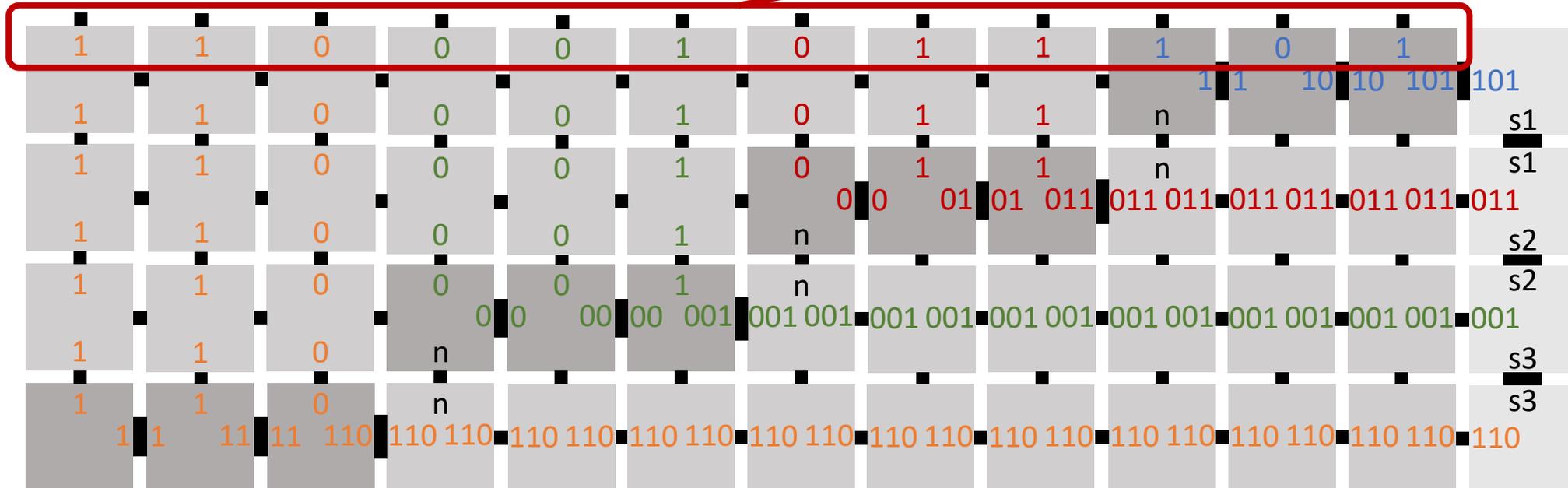


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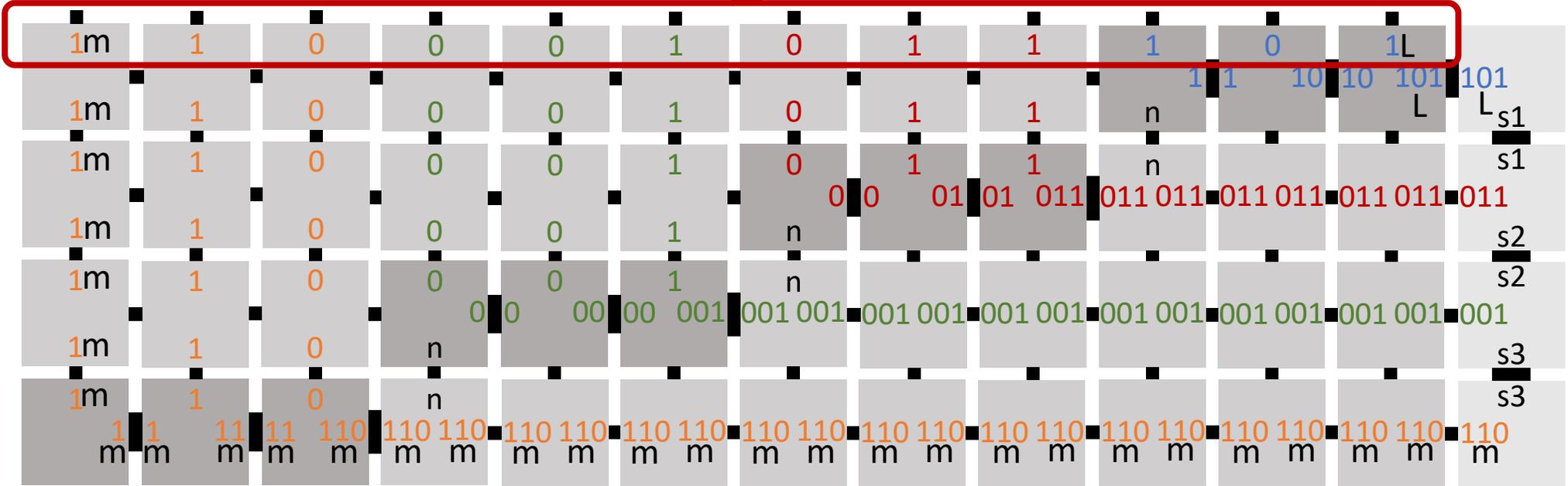
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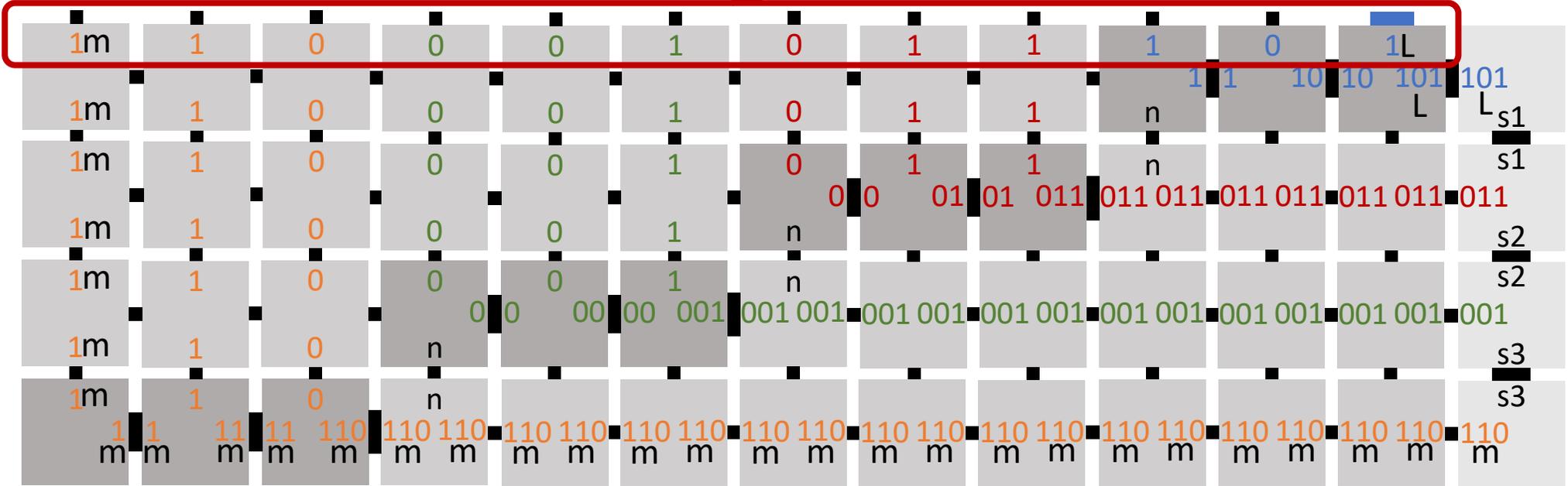
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Formal definition of aTAM

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- The **frontier** of α is denoted $\partial\alpha = \bigcup_{\alpha \rightarrow_1 \beta} (S_\beta \setminus S_\alpha)$ (empty locations adjacent to α where a tile can stably attach to α .)

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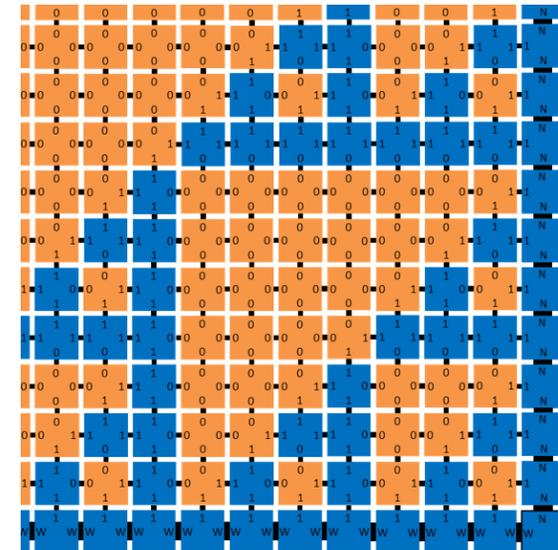
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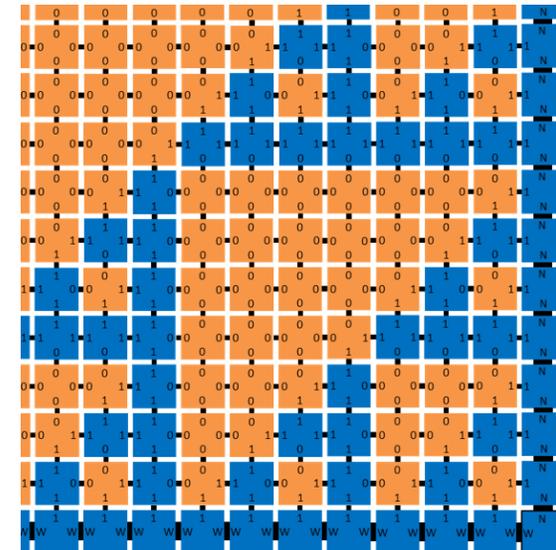
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 - Example: strict self-assembly of entire second quadrant $X = \{ (x,y) \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \mid x \geq 0 \text{ and } y \leq 0 \}$



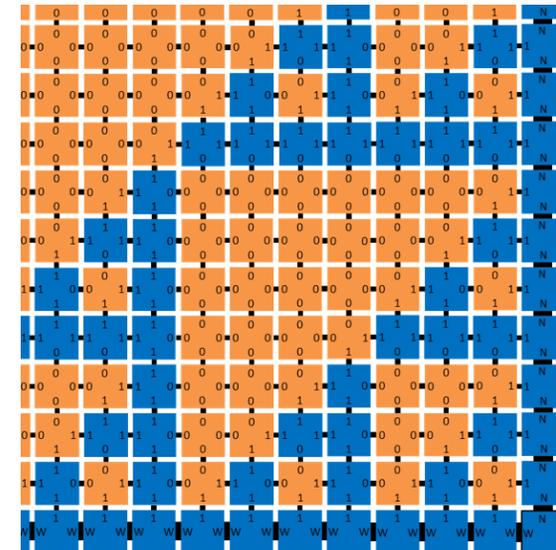
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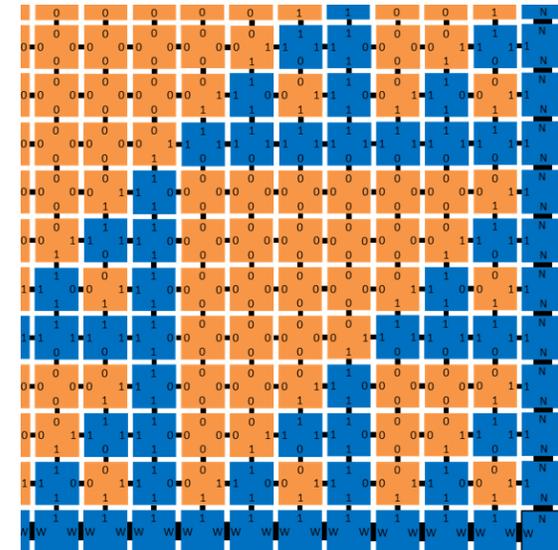
abstract Tile Assembly Model (aTAM), formal definition

- Given tile system $\Theta = (T, \sigma, \tau)$, we say α is **producible** if $\sigma \rightarrow \alpha$.
 - Write $A[\Theta]$ to denote the set of all producible assemblies.
- We say α is **terminal** if α is stable and $\partial\alpha = \emptyset$. (*no tile can stably attach to it*)
 - Write $A_{\square}[\Theta] \subseteq A[\Theta]$ to denote the set of all producible, terminal assemblies.
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 - example: weak self-assembly of the discrete Sierpinski triangle.



Basic stability result

Observation: Let $\alpha \sqsubseteq \beta$ be stable assemblies and $p \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \setminus S_\beta$ such that $\alpha + (p \mapsto t)$ is stable. Then $\beta + (p \mapsto t)$ is also stable.

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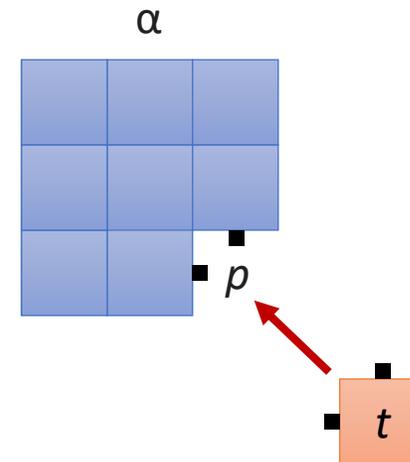
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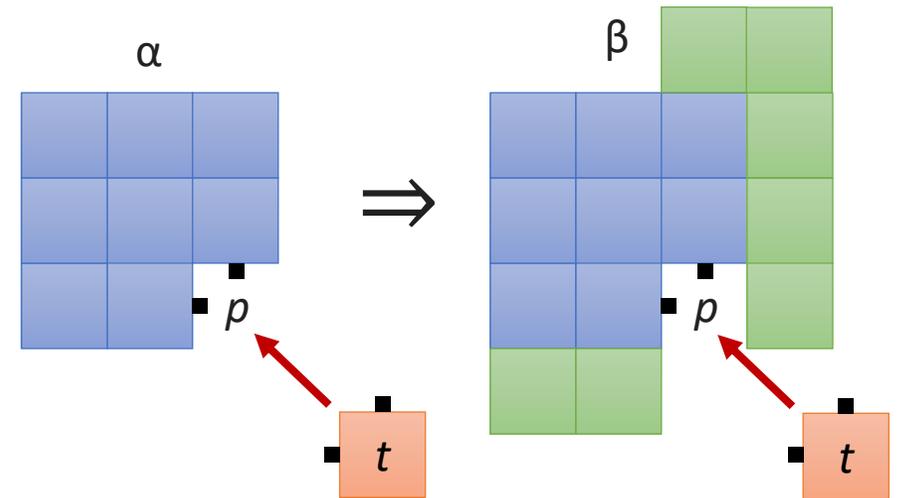


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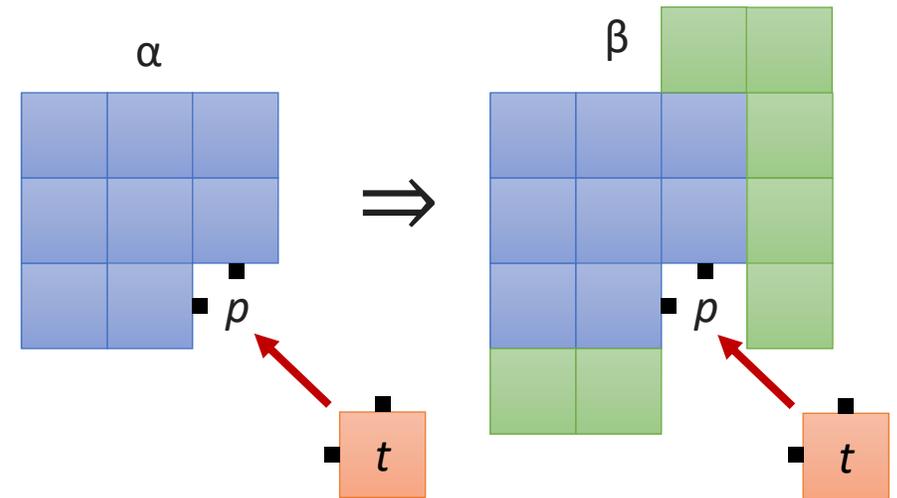
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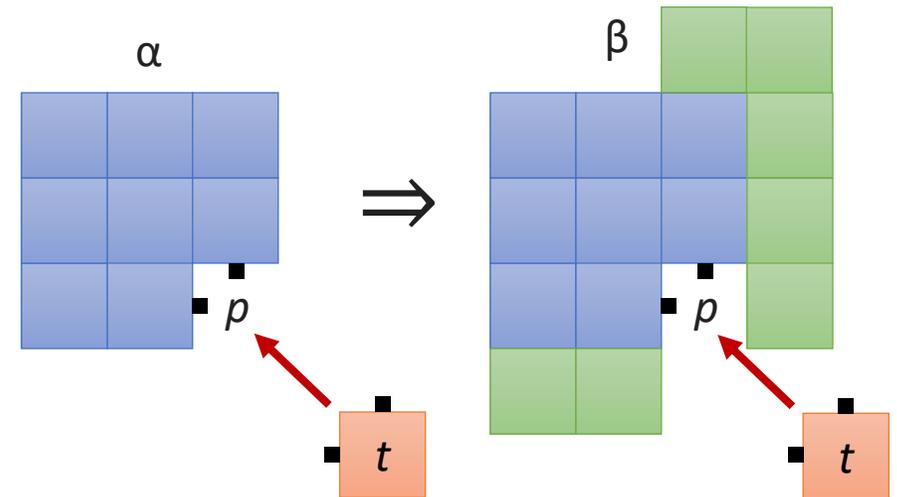
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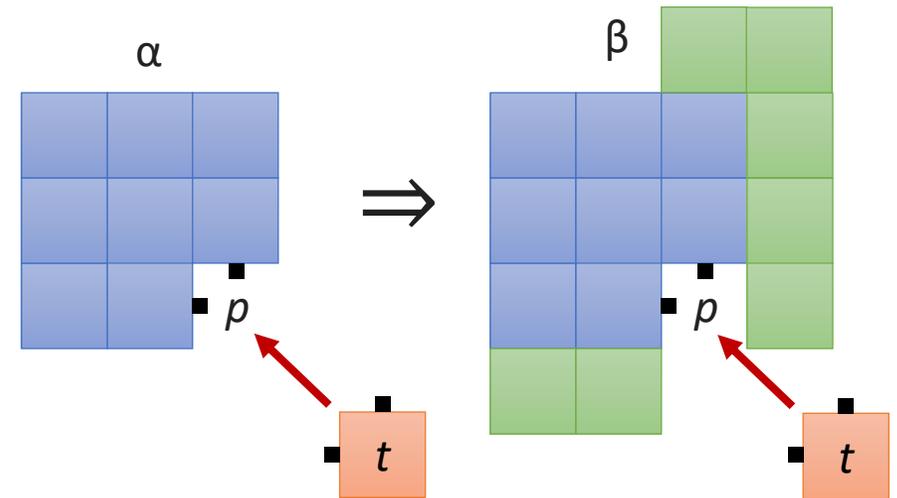
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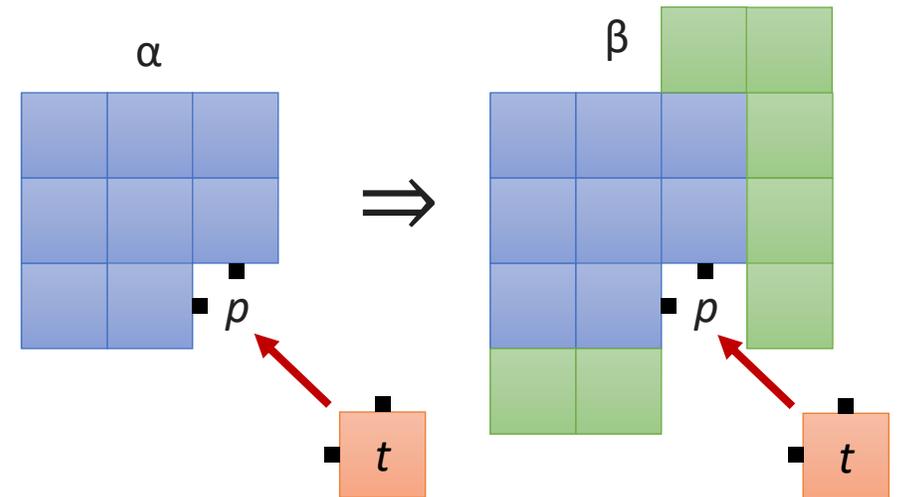
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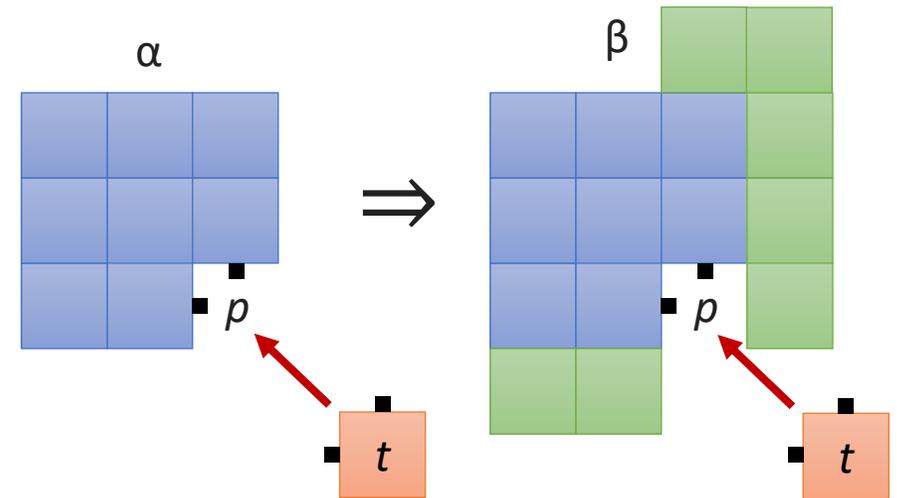
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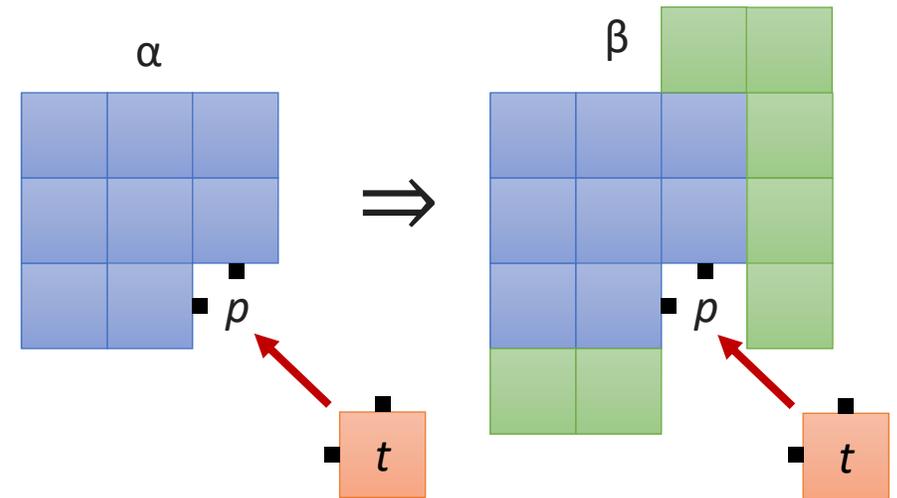
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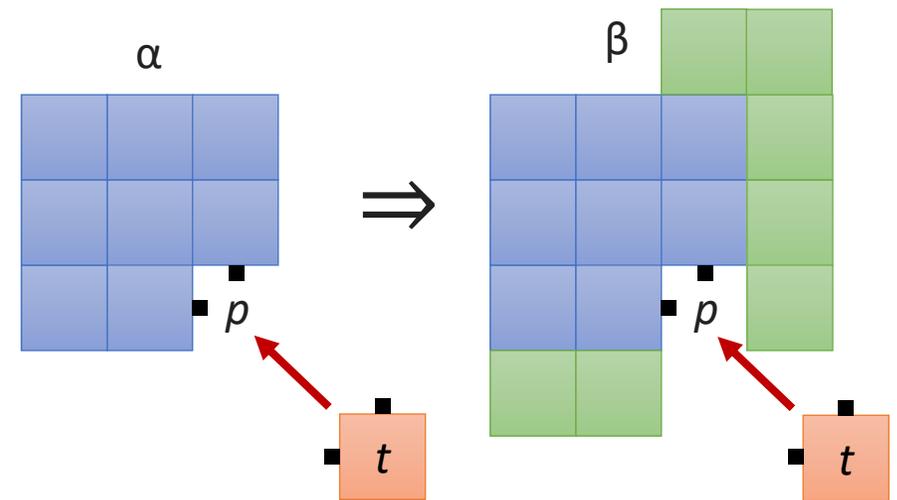
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 4. so the cut (t, S_β) is also stable. **QED**

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Basic reachability result

Rothmund's Lemma: Let $\alpha \sqsubseteq \beta \sqsubseteq \gamma$ be stable assemblies such that $\alpha \rightarrow \gamma$. Then $\beta \rightarrow \gamma$.

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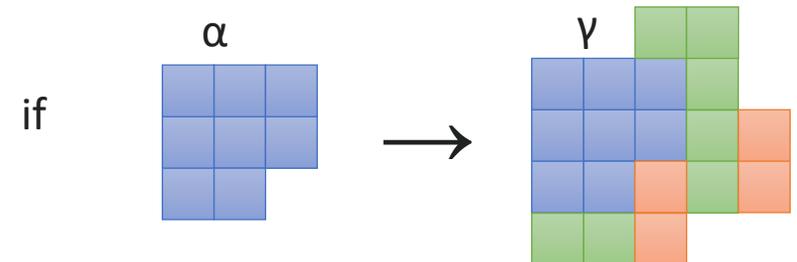
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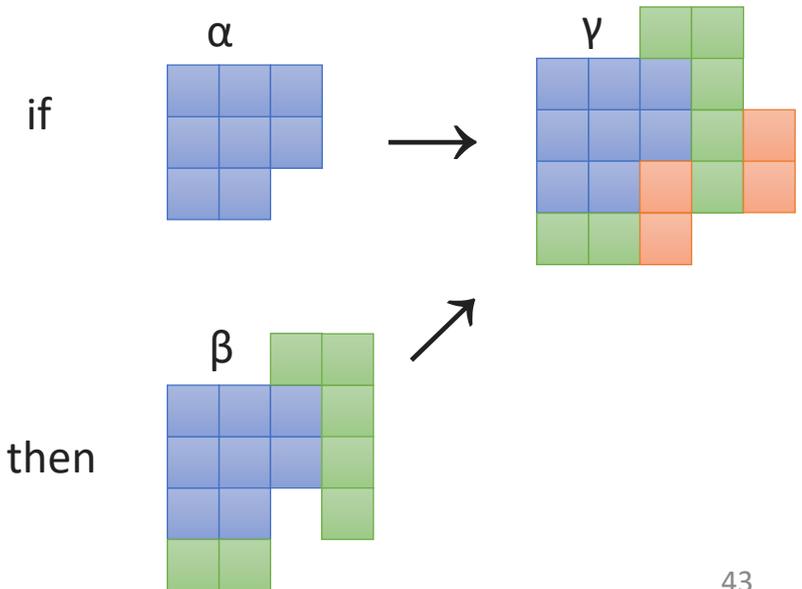


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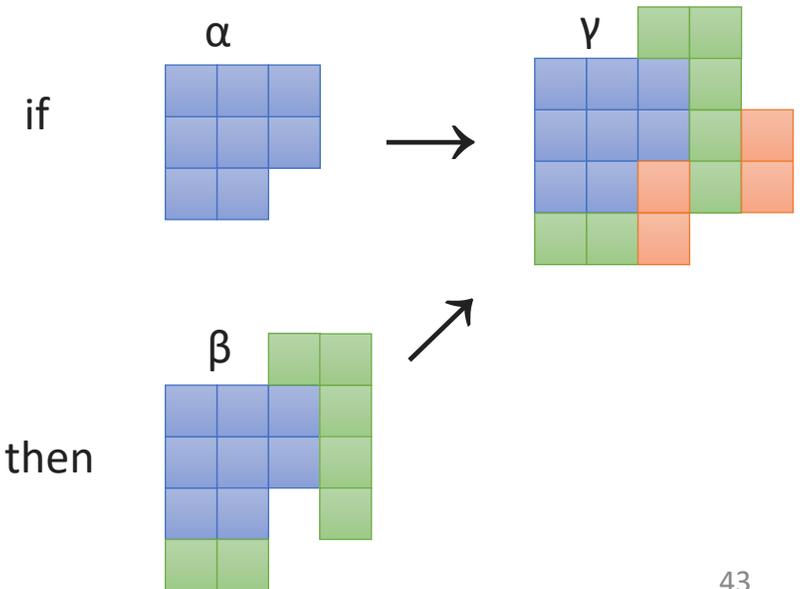
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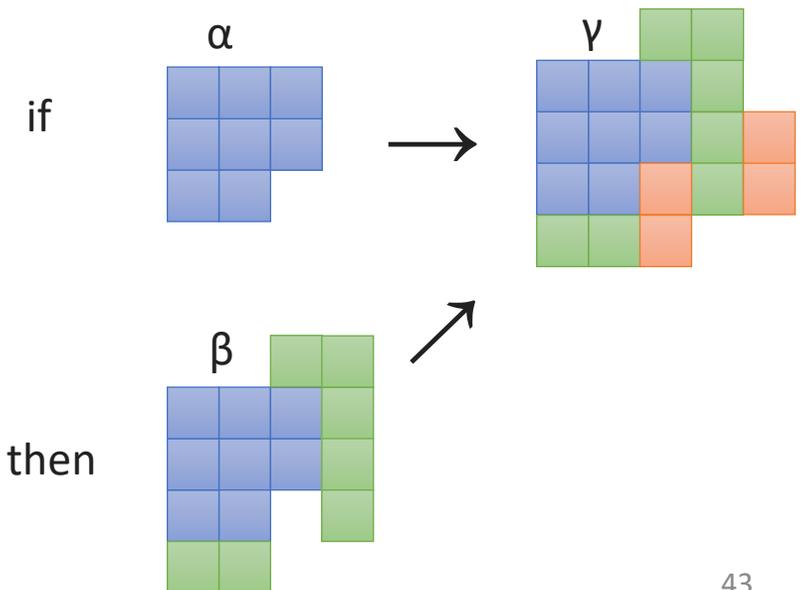
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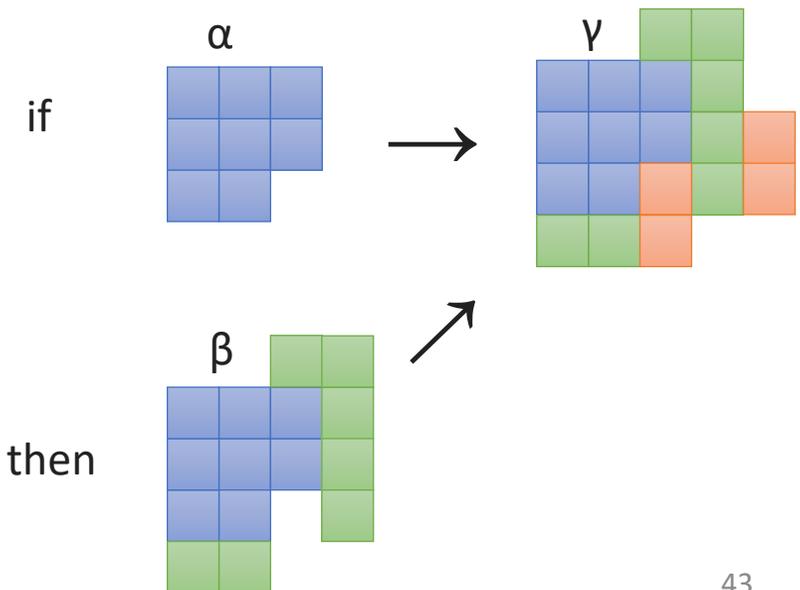
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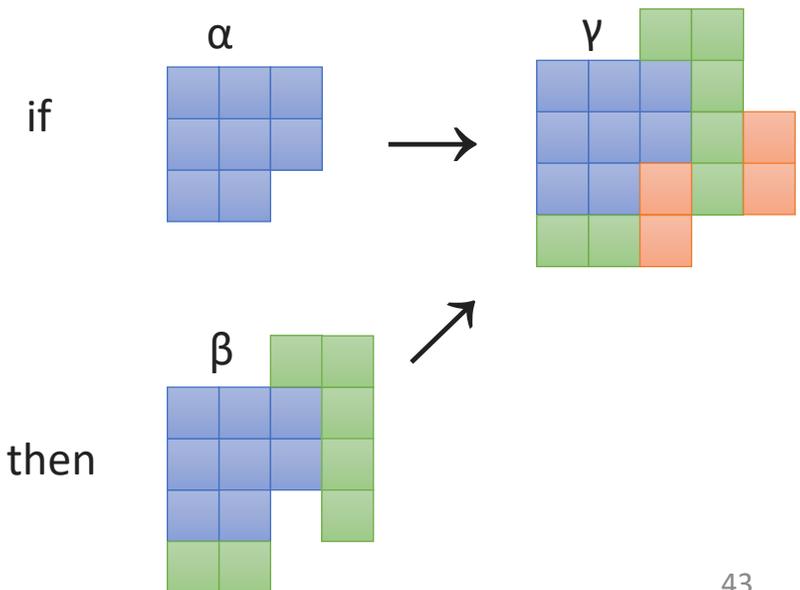
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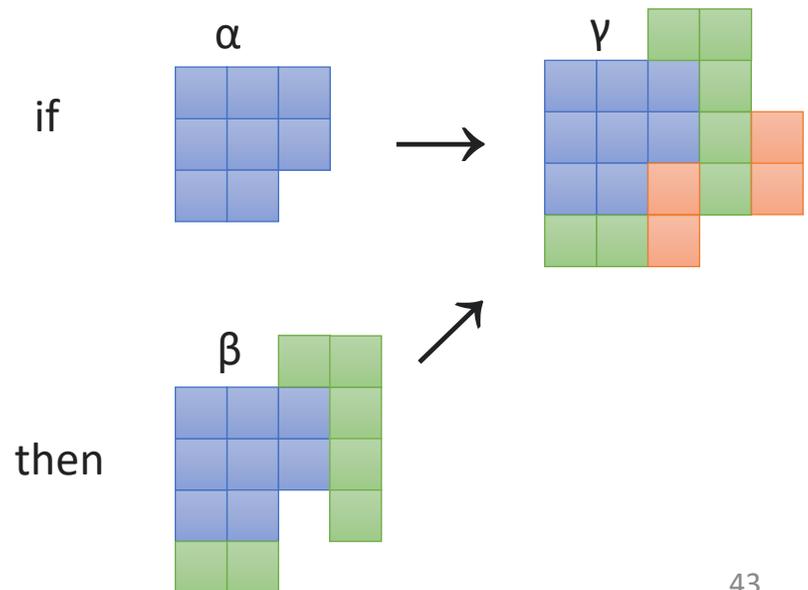
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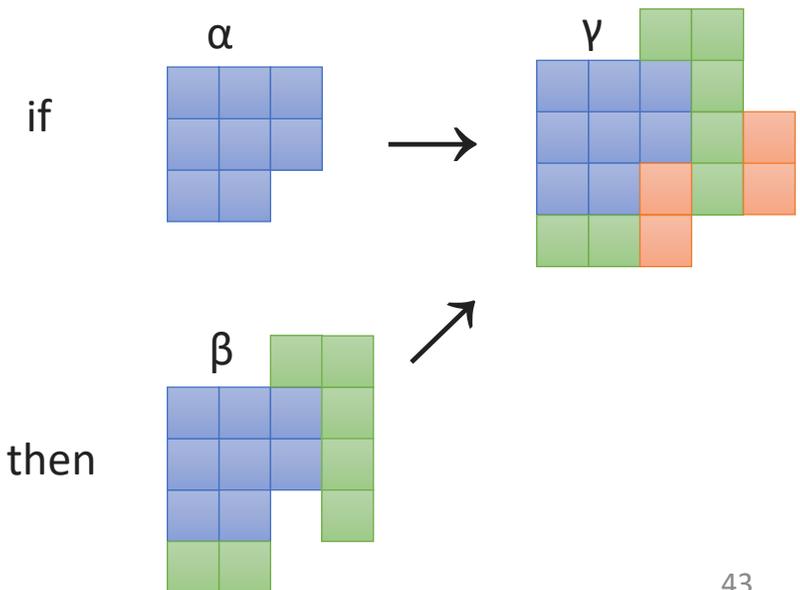
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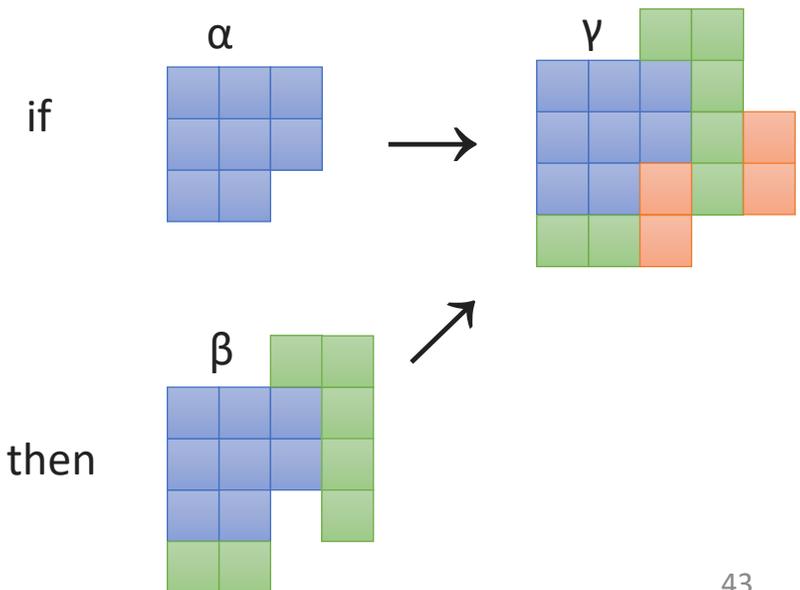
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6. Thus the assembly sequence is valid (each tile attachment is stable), showing $\beta \rightarrow \gamma$. **QED**

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example of usefulness of Rothemund's Lemma

- Recall two alternate characterizations of deterministic tile systems:
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- Rothemund's Lemma can be used to show that (b) implies (a)
 - will skip in lecture (optional problem on homework 1)

Fair assembly sequences

Definition: Let $\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots$ be an assembly sequence. We say it is **fair** if, for all $i \in \mathbb{N}$ and all $p \in \partial\alpha_i$, there exists $j > i$ such that $p \in S_{\alpha_j}$.

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3. Now assume assembly sequence is infinite. (*actually, rest of proof works in finite case*)

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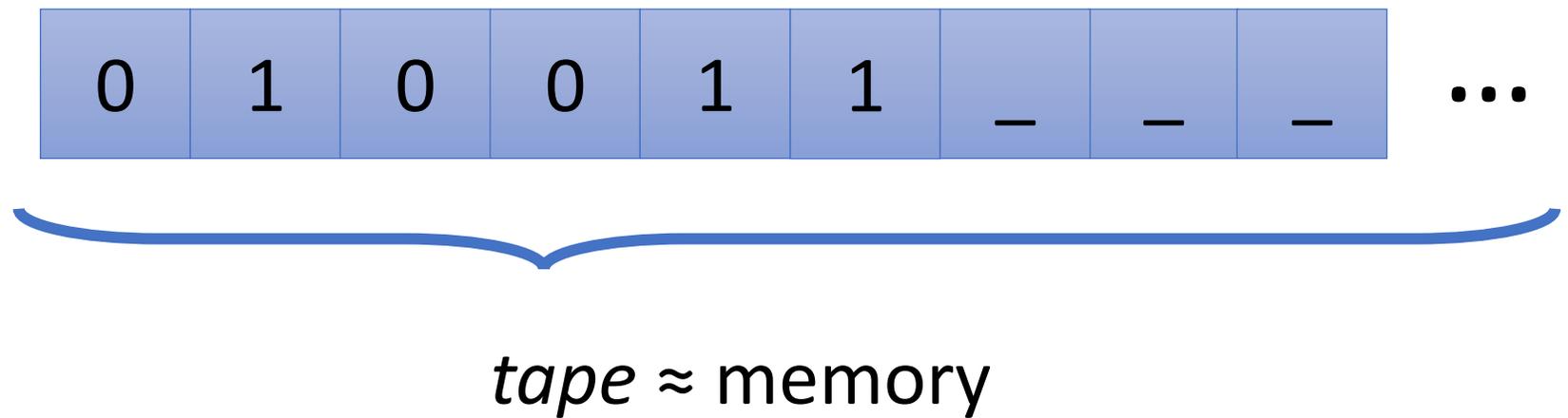
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Concrete example of simulation algorithm creating a fair assembly sequence?

How computationally powerful
are self-assembling tiles?

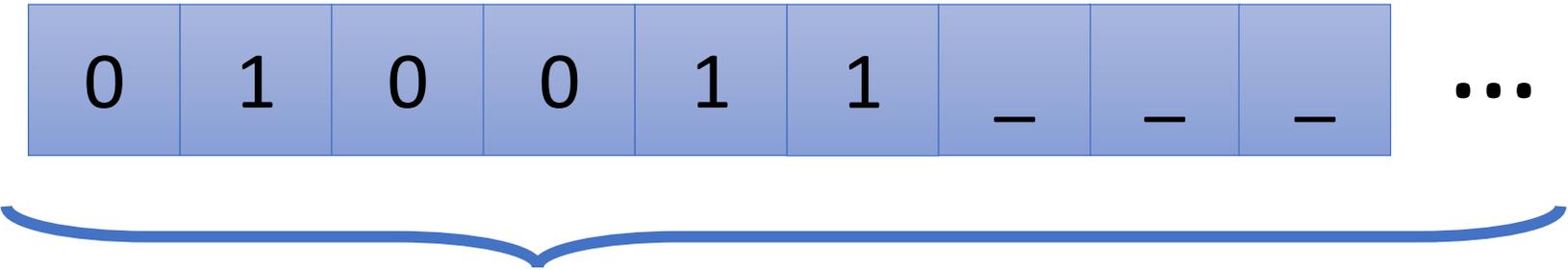
Turing machines

Turing machines



Turing machines

state \approx line of code

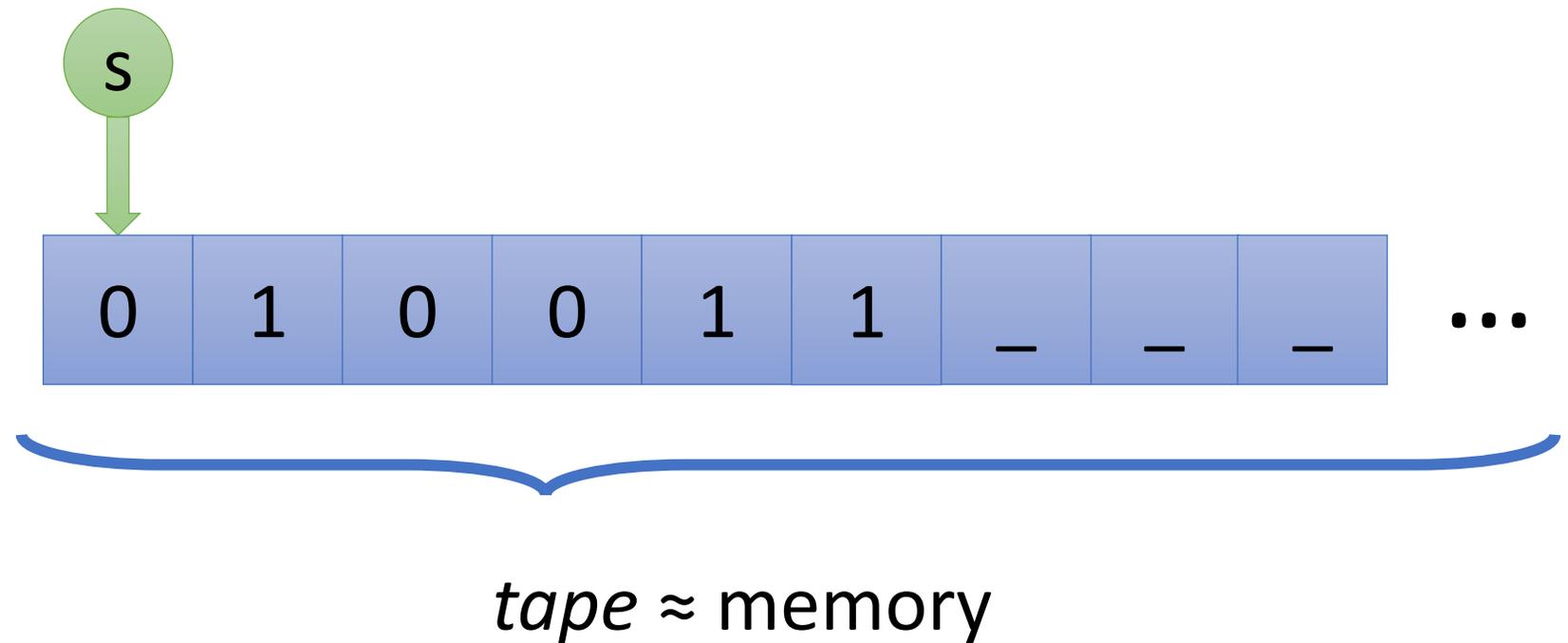


tape \approx memory

Turing machines

state \approx line of code

initial state = s

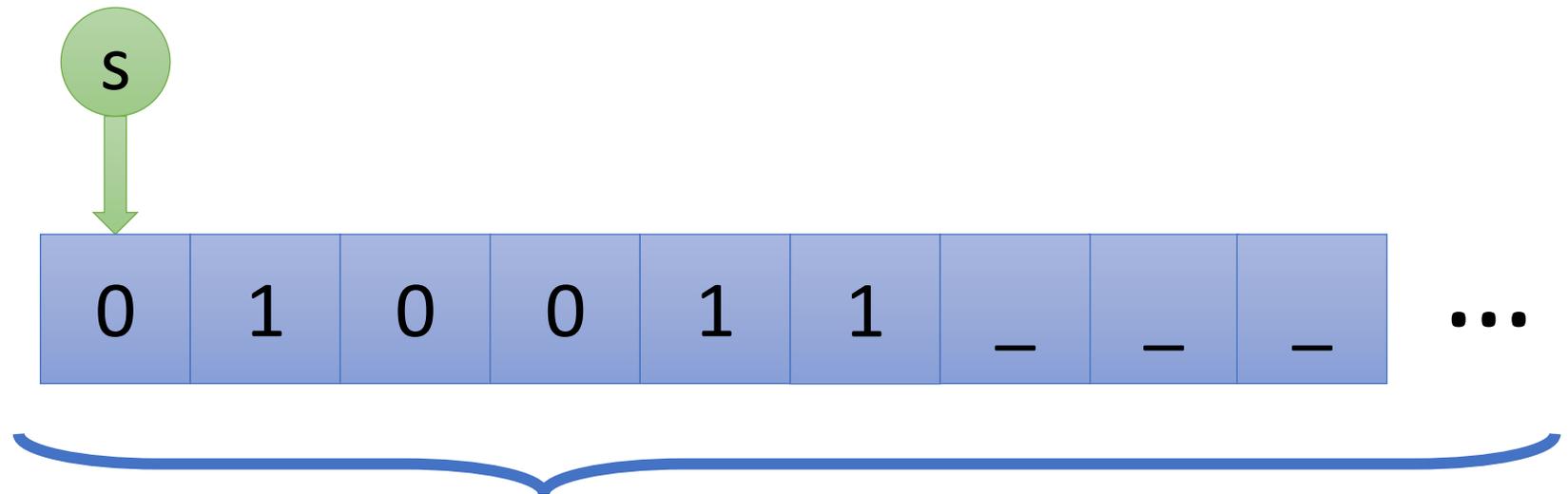


Turing machines

state \approx line of code

initial state = *s*

s,0: *q*,0, \rightarrow



transitions
(instructions)

tape \approx memory

Turing machines

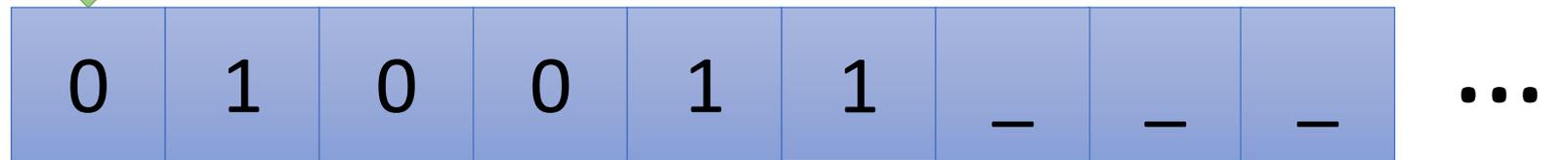
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initial state = *s*

current state

$s, 0: q, 0, \rightarrow$

s



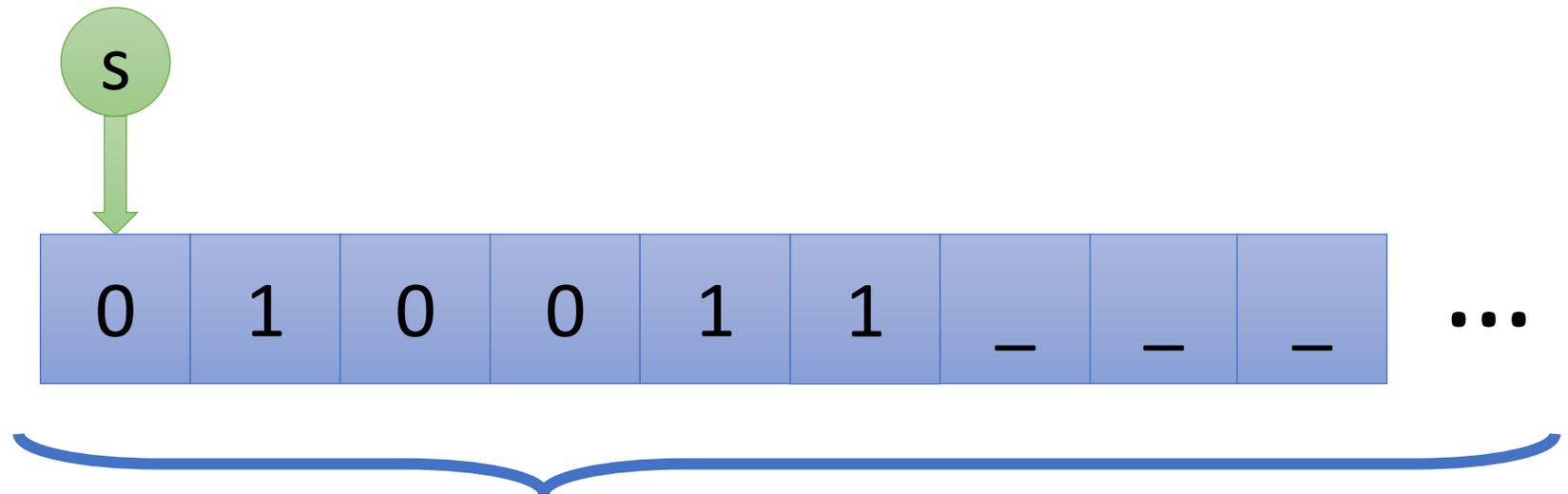
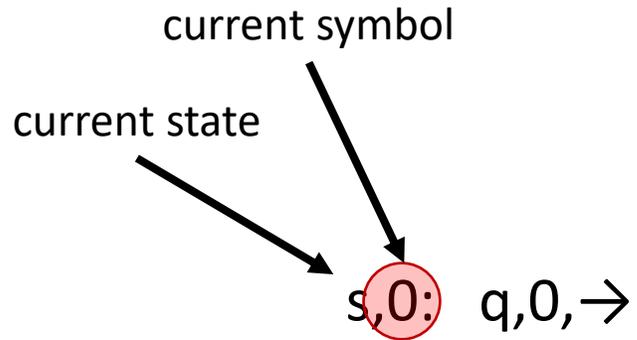
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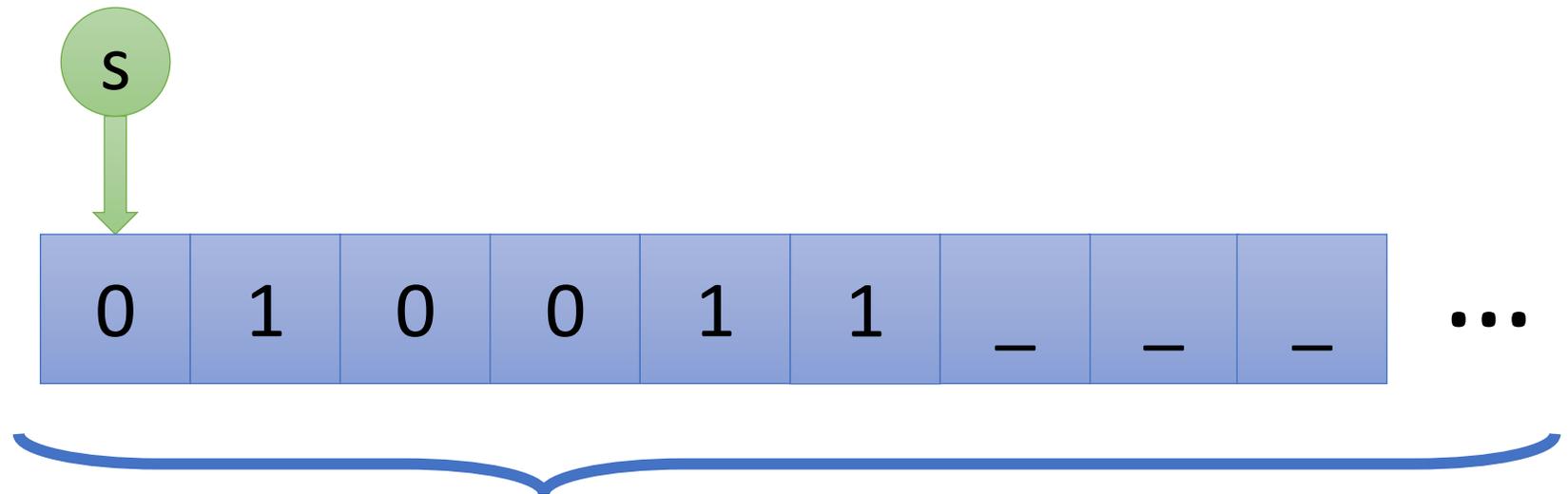
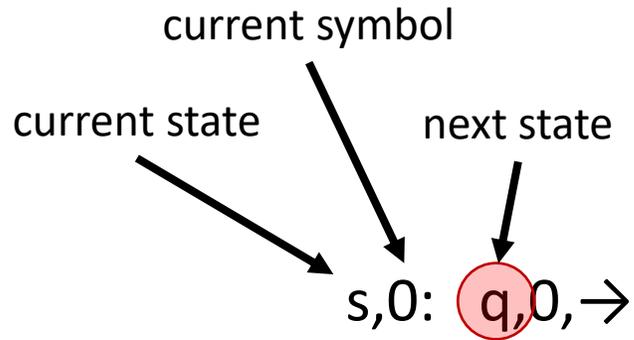
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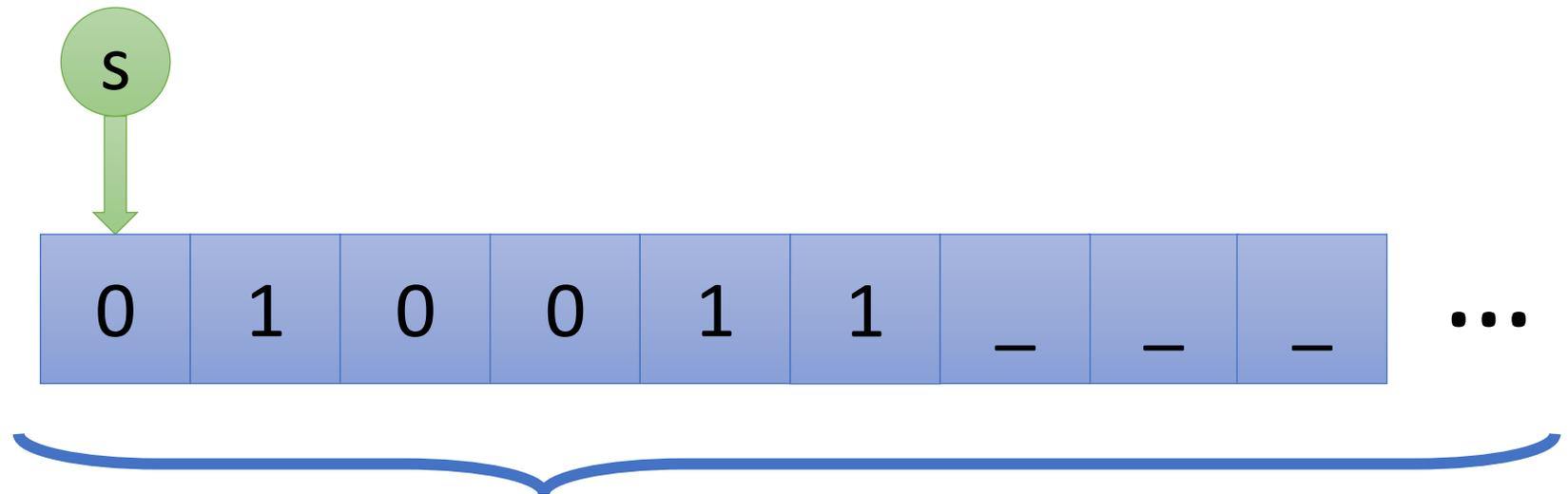
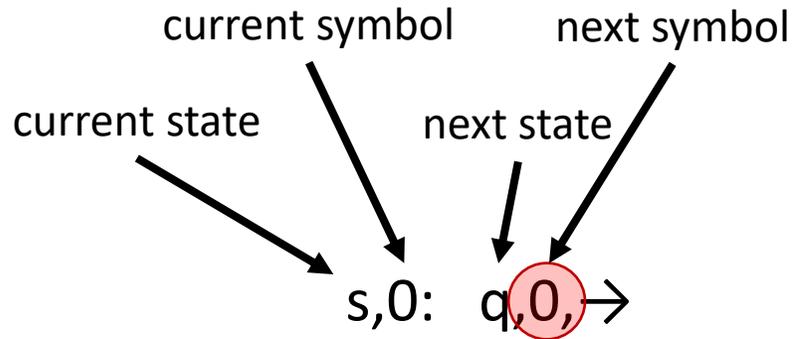
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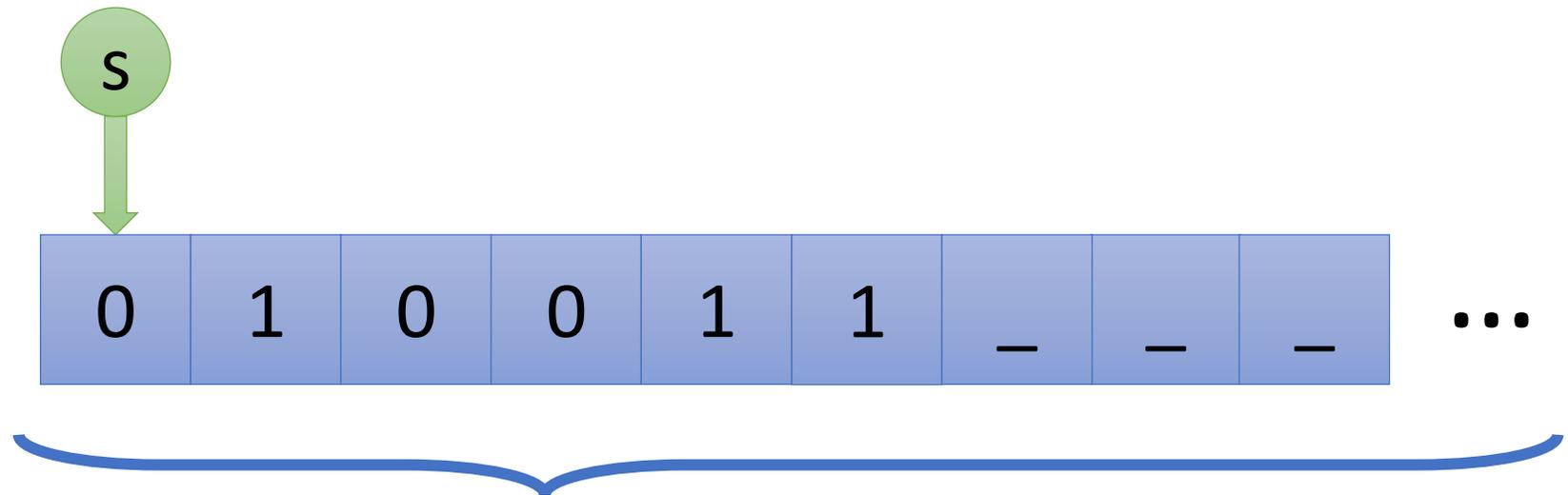
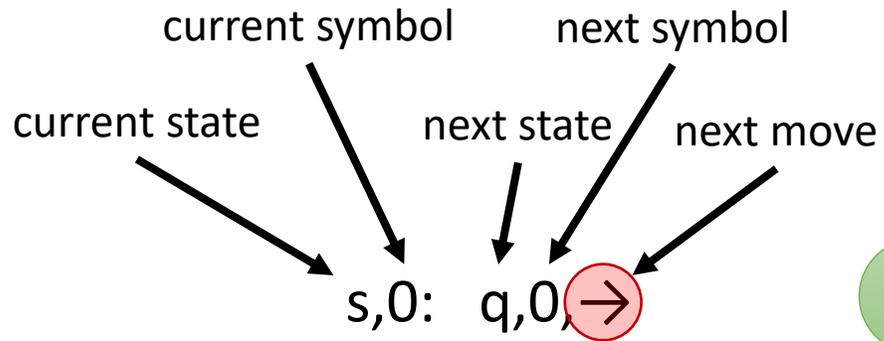
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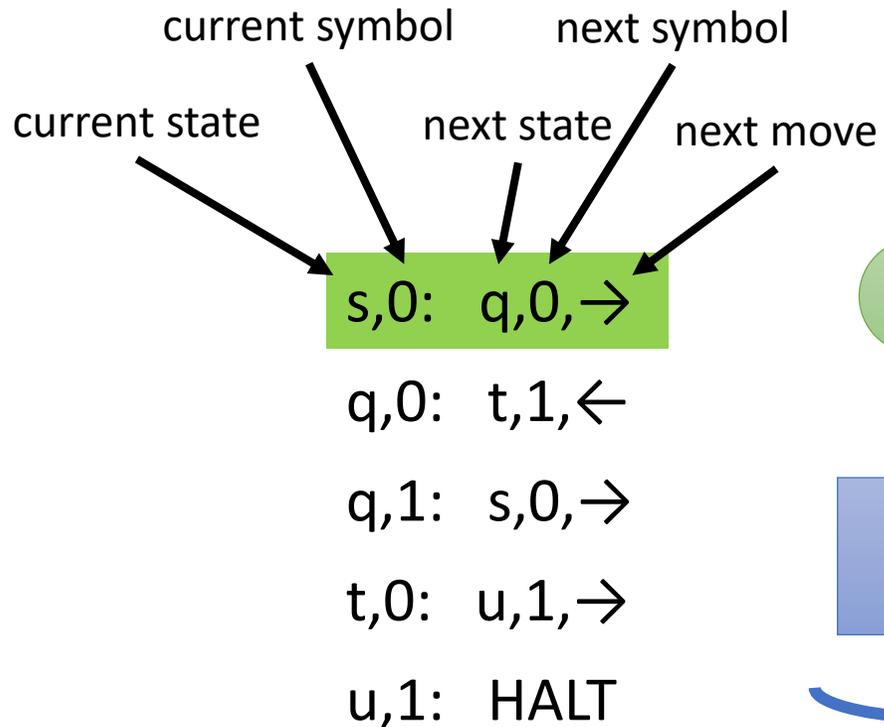
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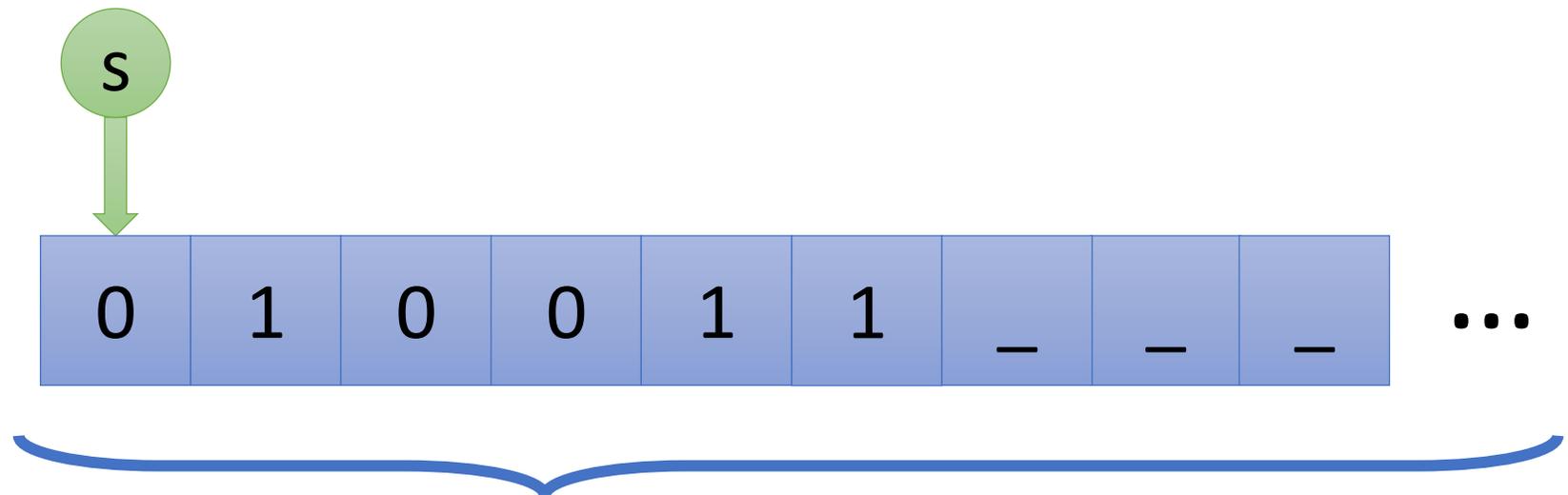
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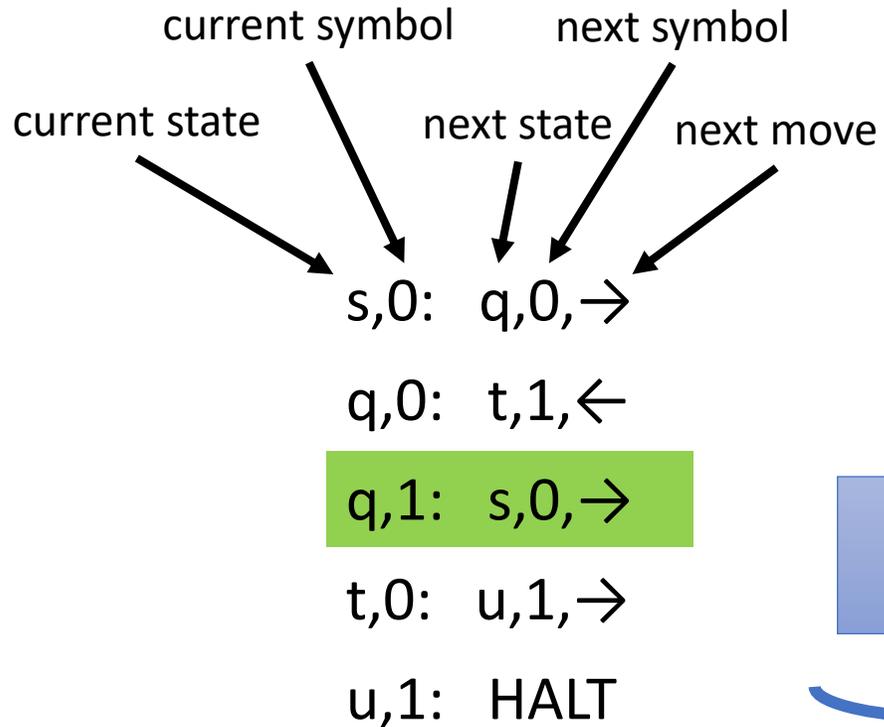


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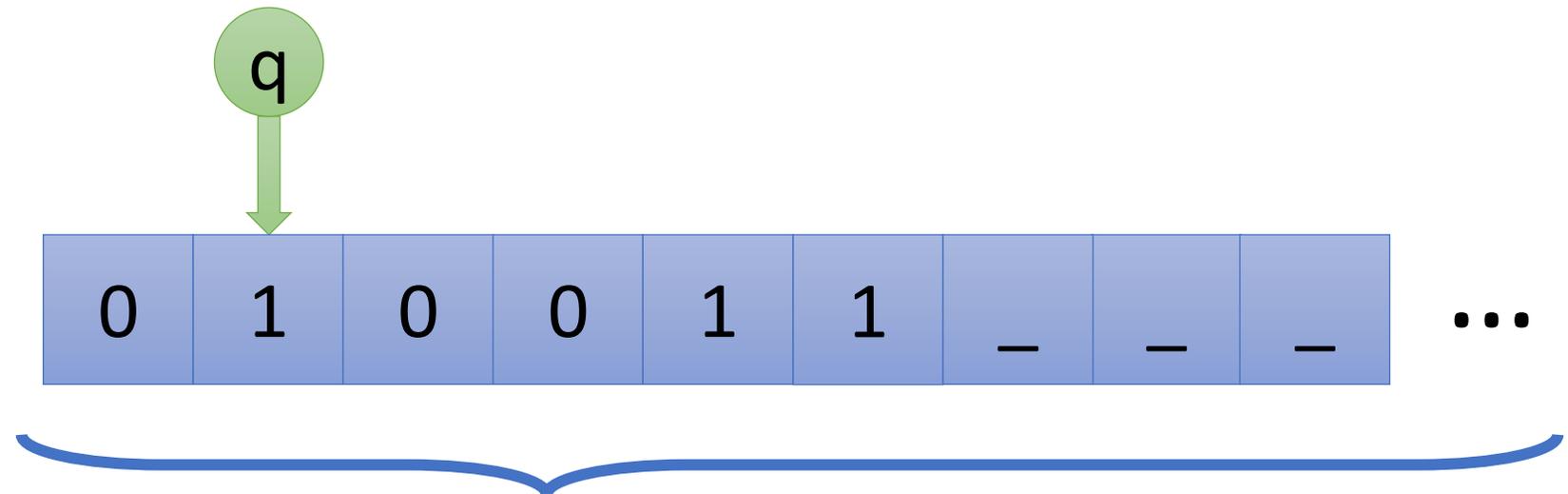
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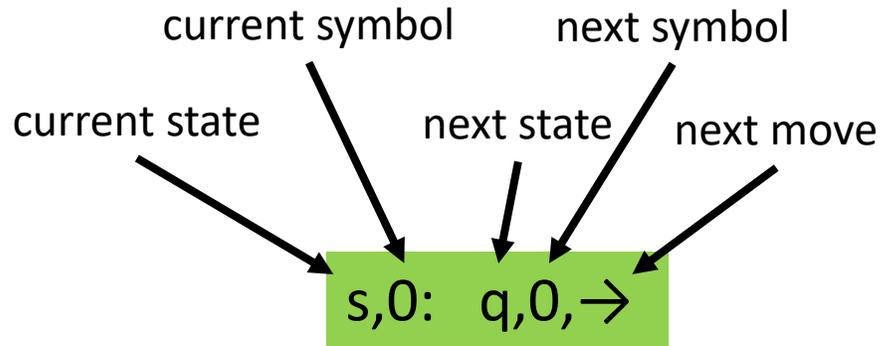


transitions
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q,0: t,1,←

q,1: s,0,→

t,0: u,1,→

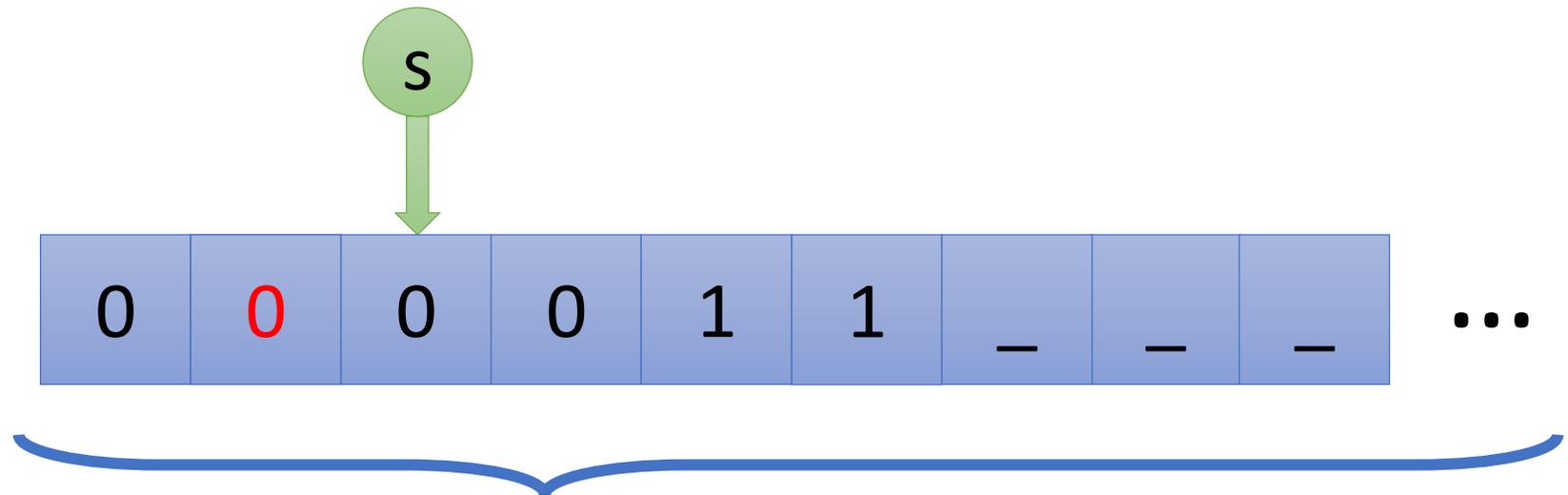
u,1: HALT

transitions

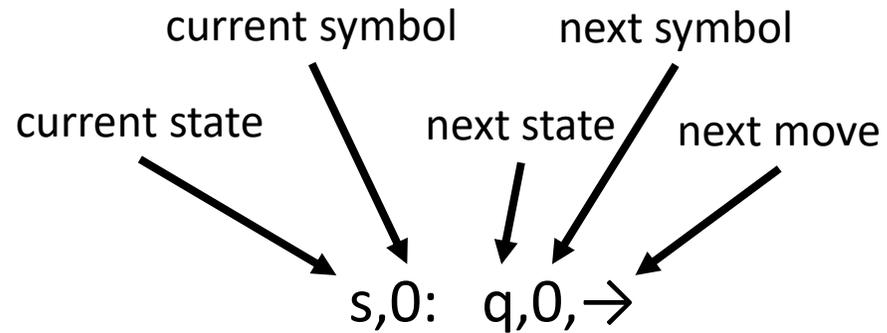
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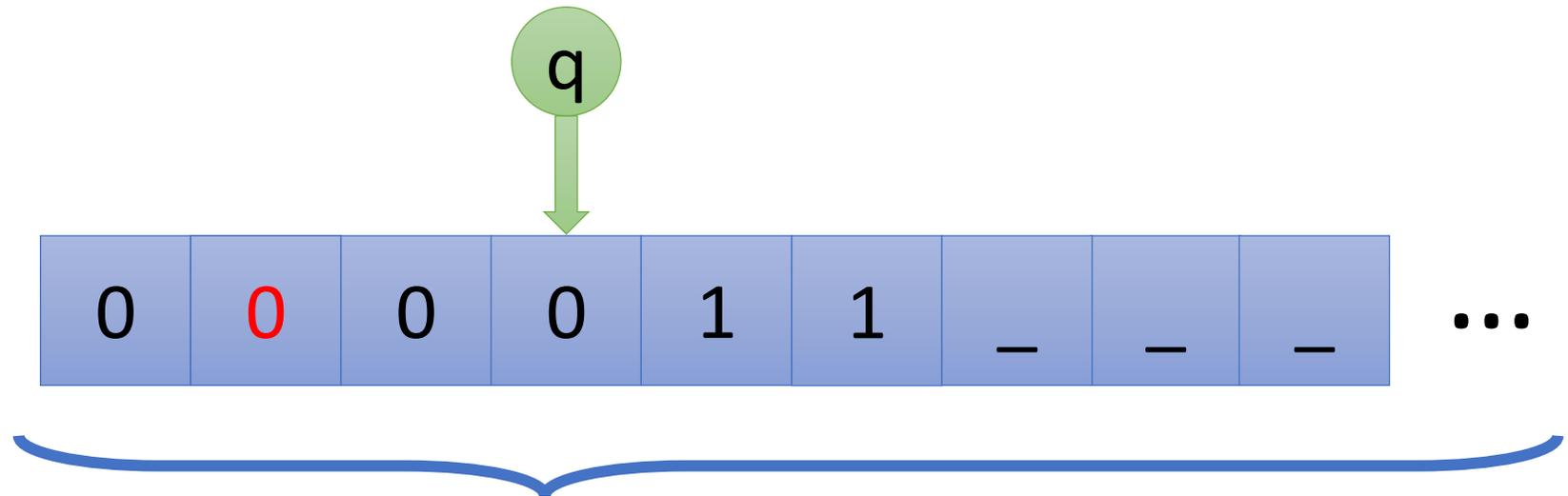
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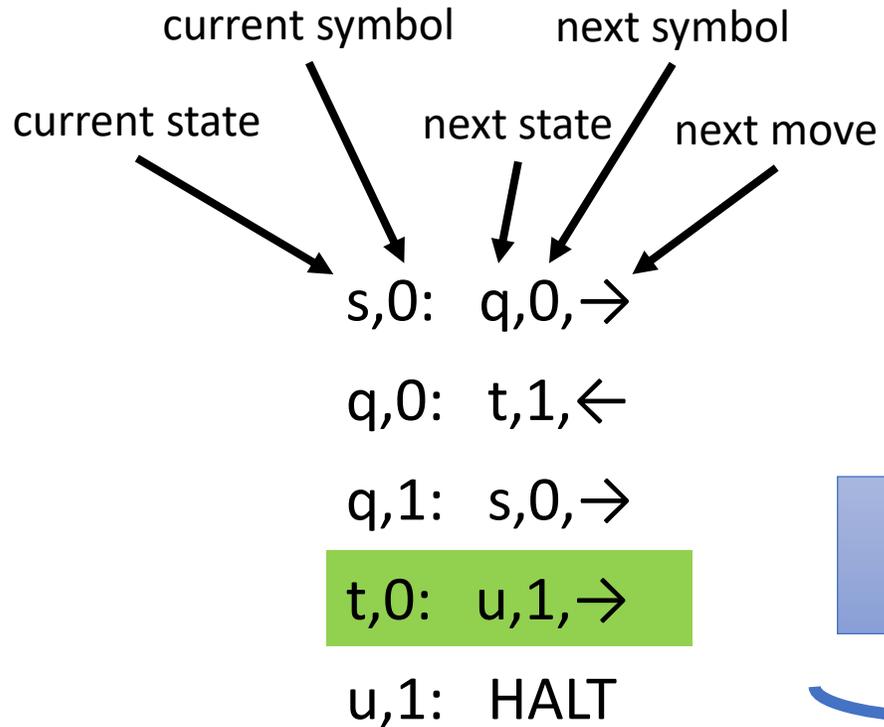
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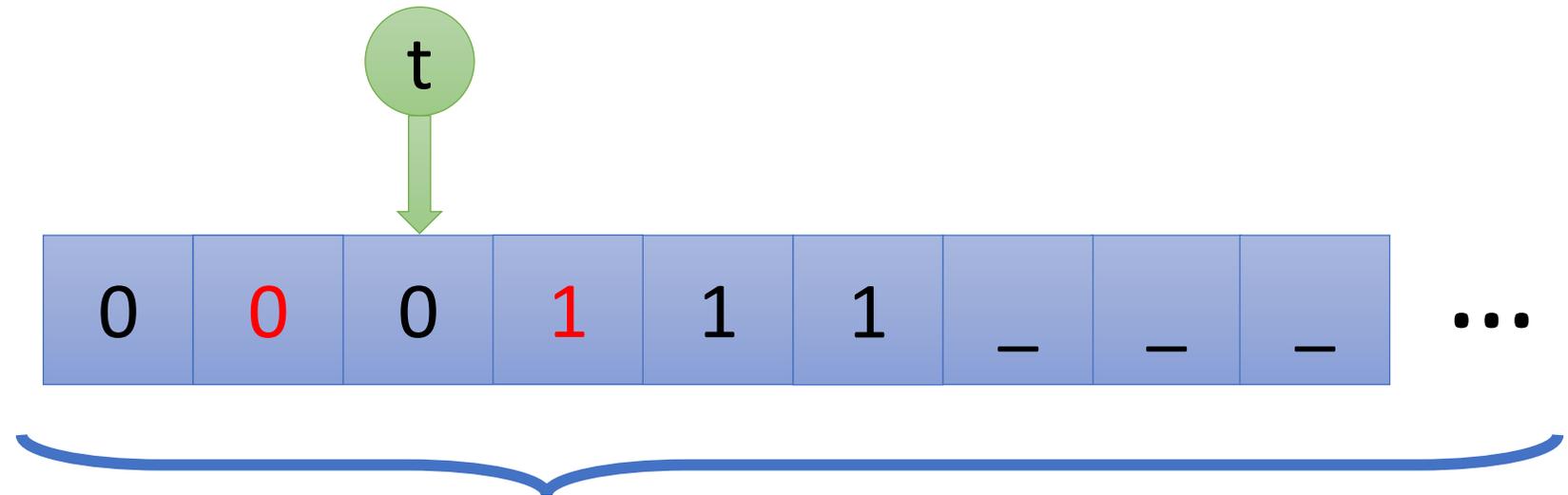
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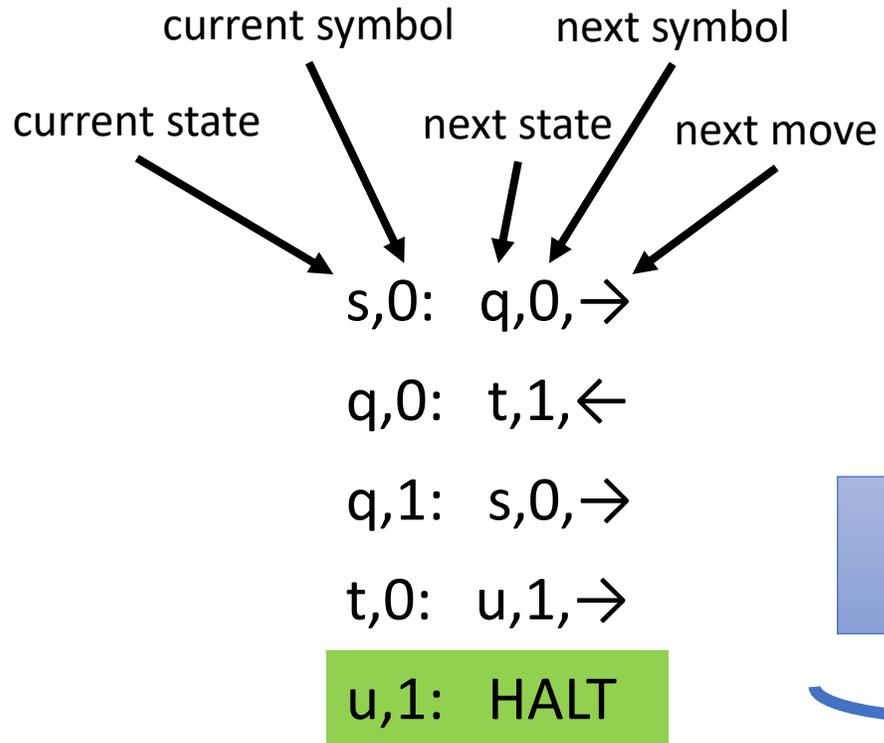
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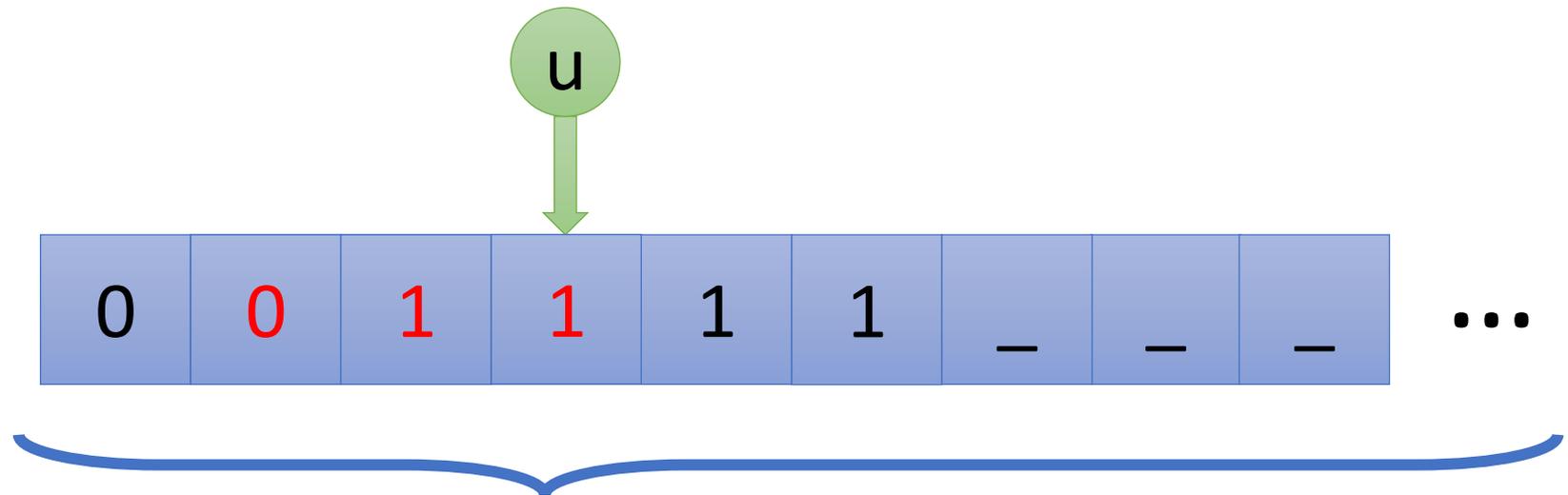
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tape \approx memory

Tile assembly is Turing-universal

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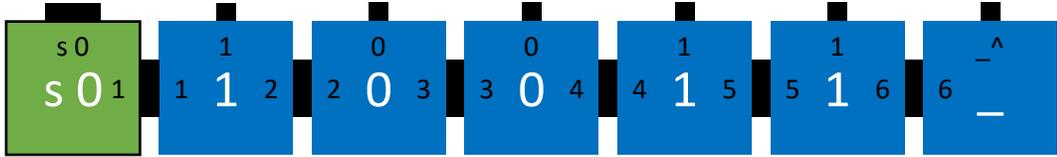
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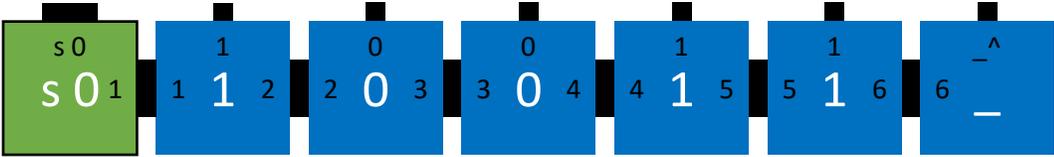
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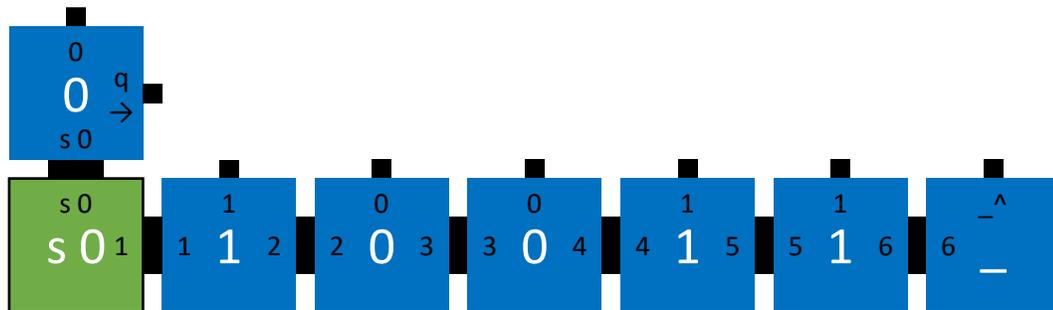
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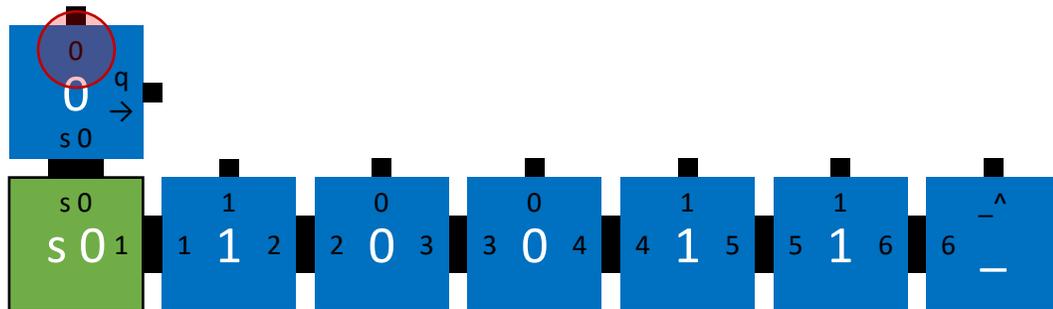
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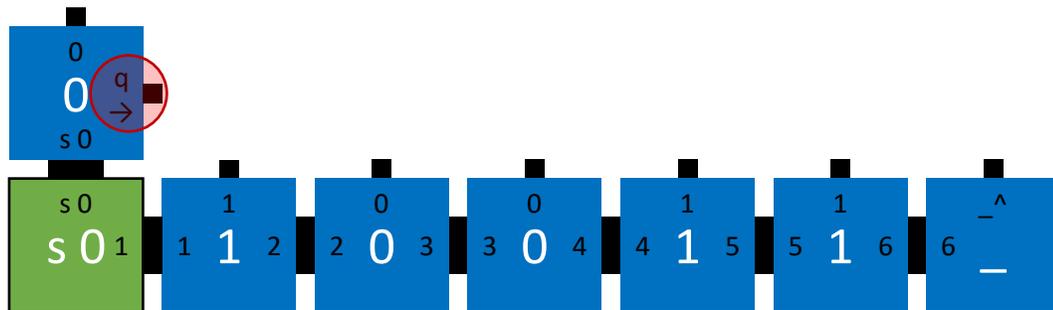
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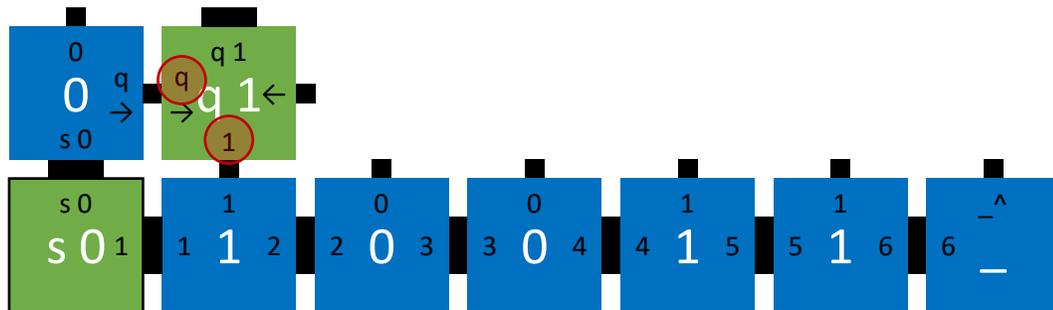
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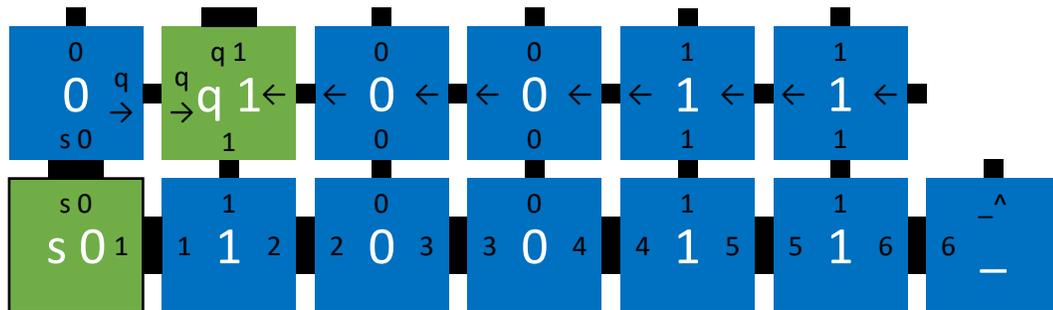
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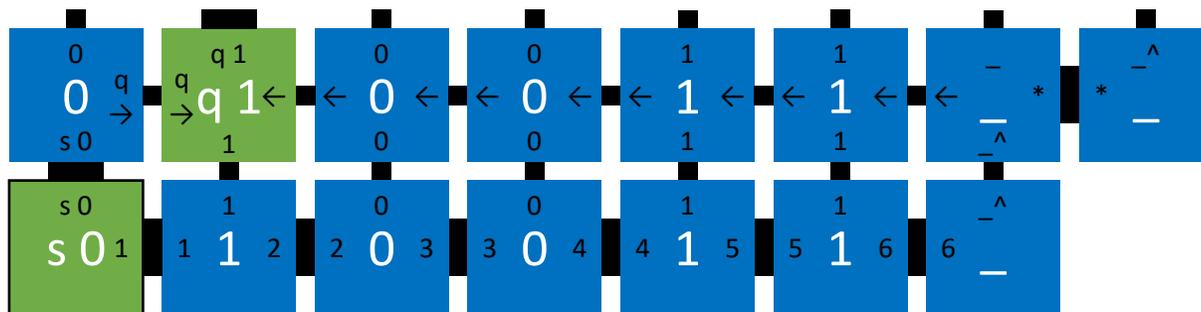
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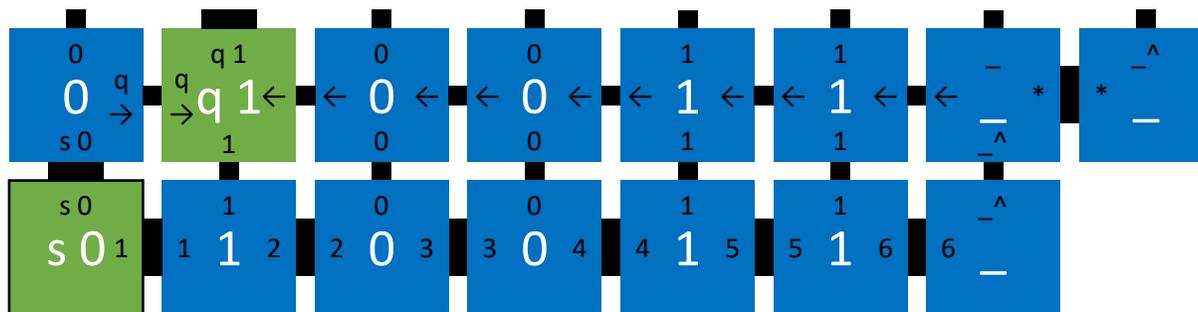
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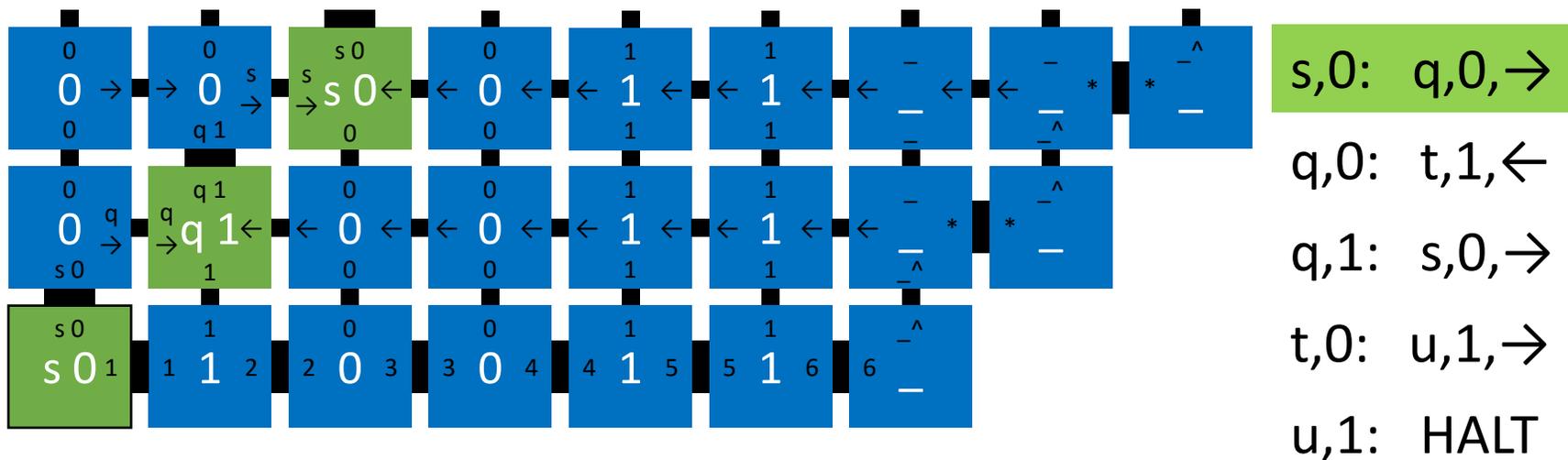
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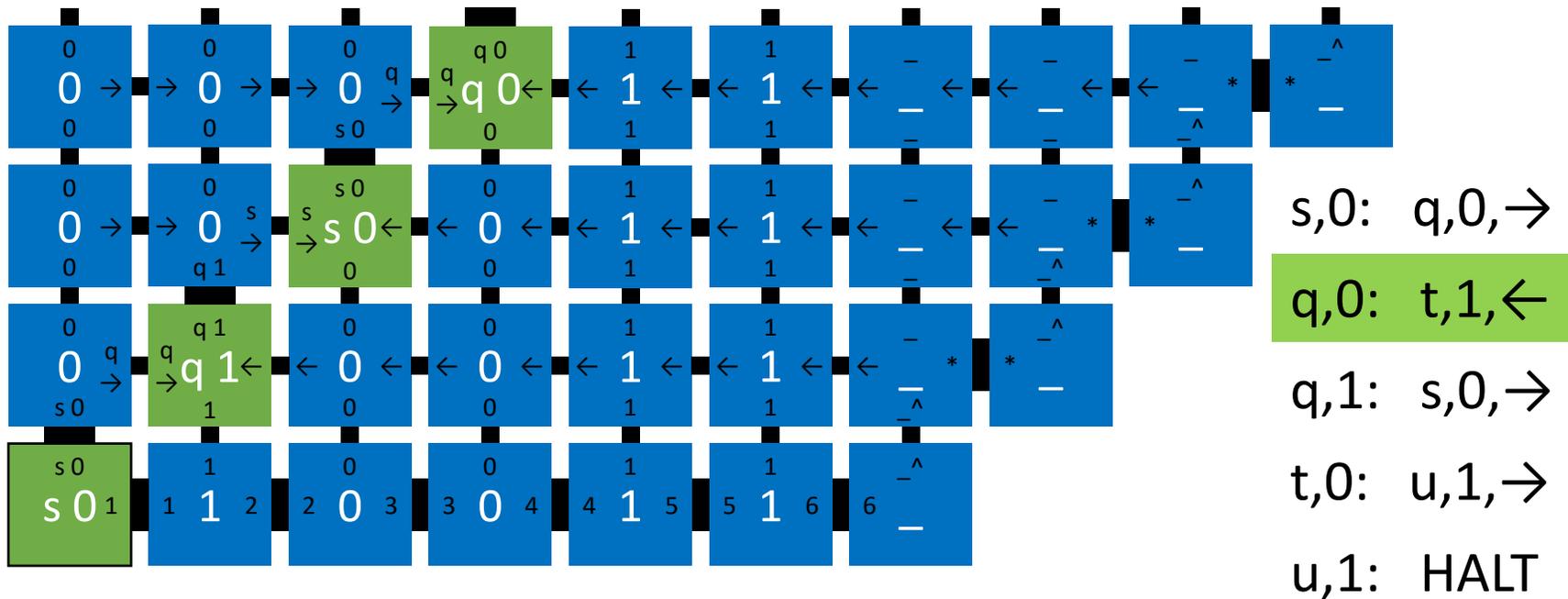
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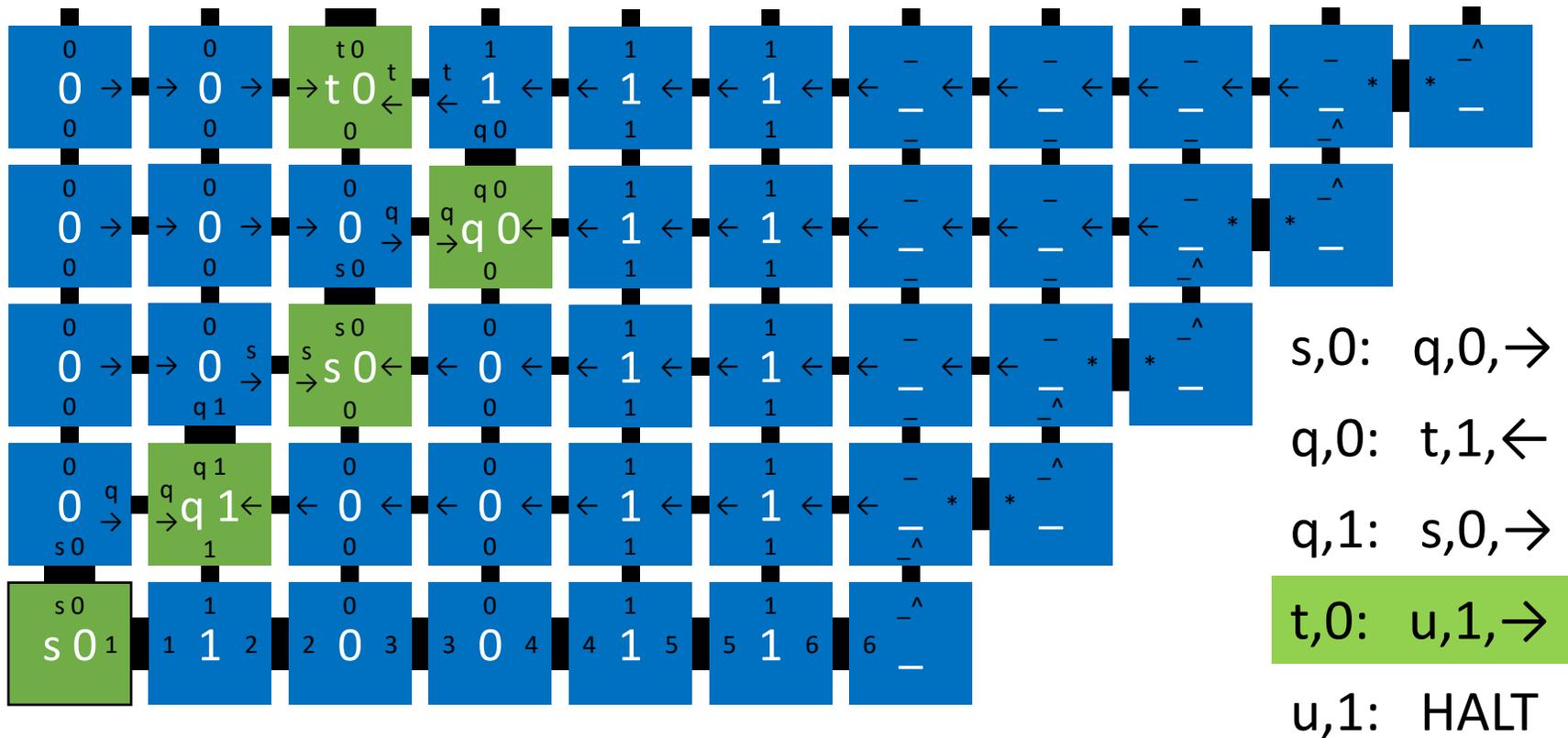
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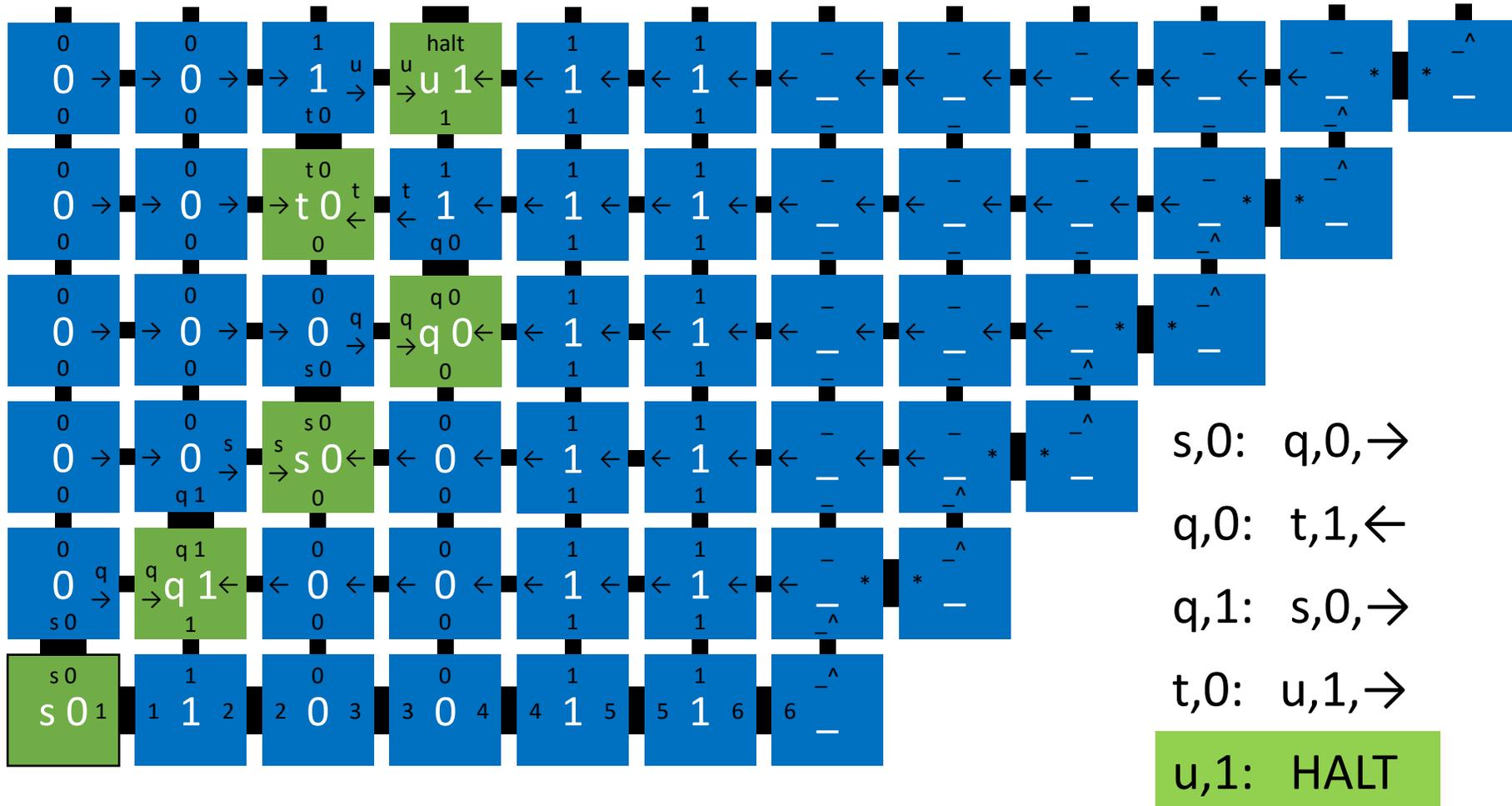
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Complexity of self-assembled shapes

- We've seen how use algorithmic tiles to:
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- What other shapes can be self-assembled?

- Define a **shape** to be a finite, connected subset of \mathbb{N}^2 .
- Any shape with n points can be self-assembled with at most how many tile types? n

0,2	1,2	2,2
0,1	1,1	2,1
0,0	1,0	2,0

		2,3
	1,2	2,2
0,1	1,1	2,1
		2,0

- Is there an infinite family of shapes S_1, S_2, \dots , with $|S_n| = n$, such that each S_n requires at least n tile types to self-assemble?

Complexity of self-assembled shapes

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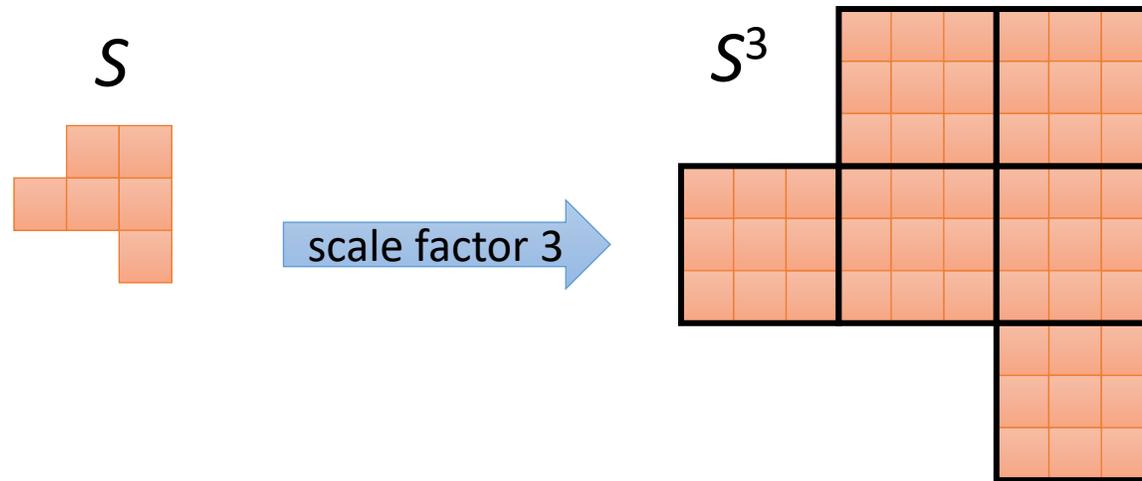
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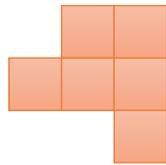
Suppose we are content to create a scaled up version of the shape:



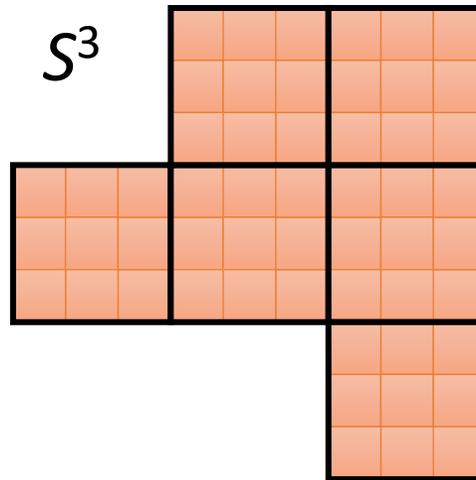
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S



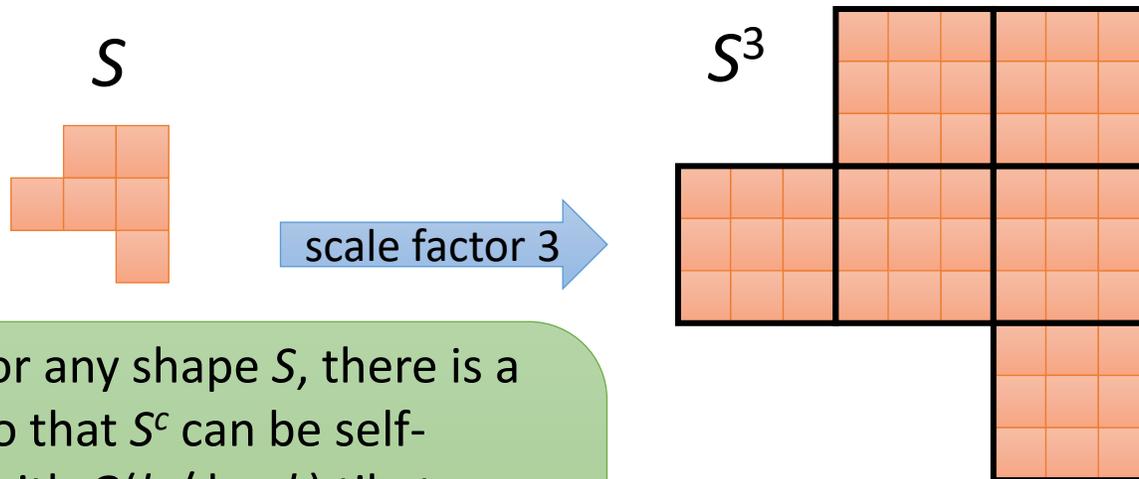
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Theorem: For any shape S , there is a constant c so that S^c can be self-assembled with $O(k / \log k)$ tile types, where k is the length in bits of the shortest program (input to a universal Turing machine) that, on input (x,y) , indicates whether $(x,y) \in S$.

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Theorem (that we won't prove): This is optimal! No smaller tile system could self-assemble any scaling of S . If one existed, we could turn it into a program with $< k$ bits "describing" S in this way. (*Why?*)

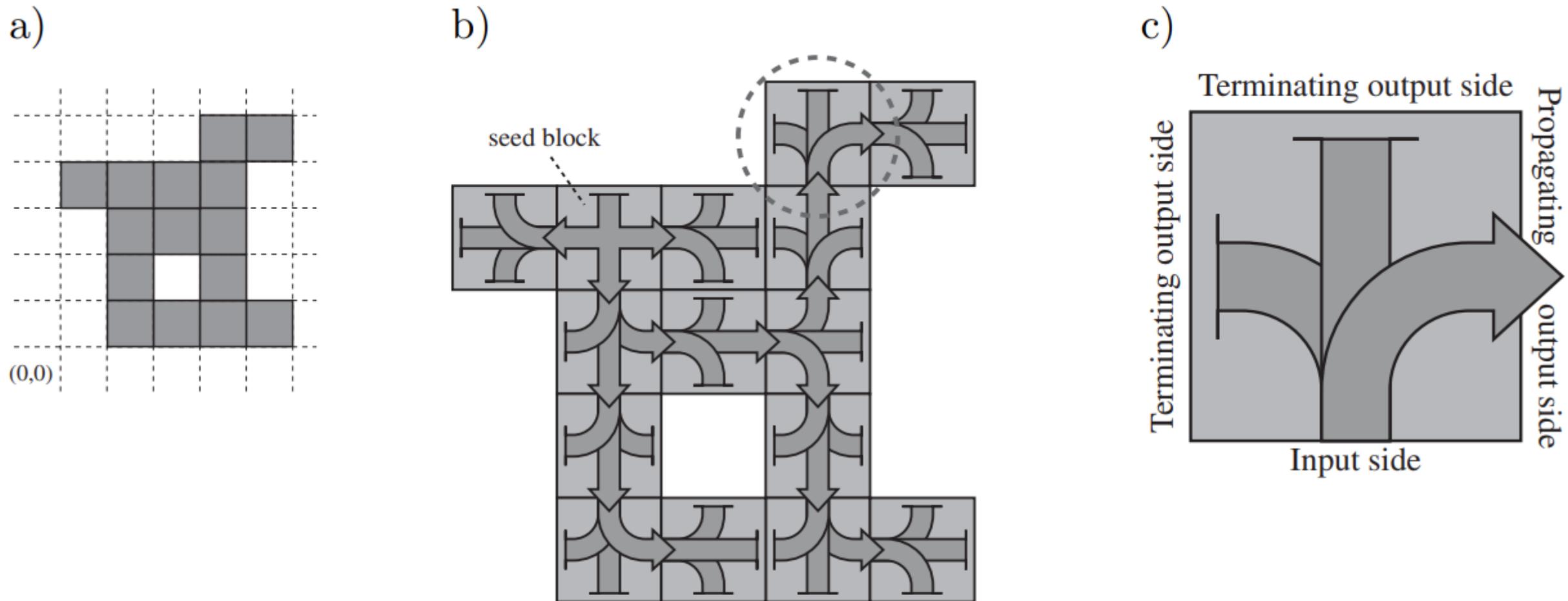
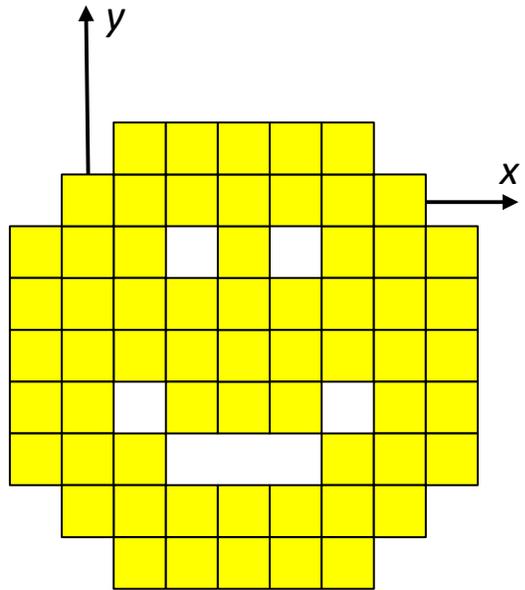


FIG. 5.1. *Forming a shape out of blocks: (a) A coordinated shape S . (b) An assembly composed of $c \times c$ blocks that grow according to transmitted instructions such that the shape of the final assembly is \tilde{S} (not drawn to scale). Arrows indicate information flow and order of assembly. The seed block and the circled growth block are schematically expanded in Figure 5.2. (c) The nomenclature describing the types of block sides.*

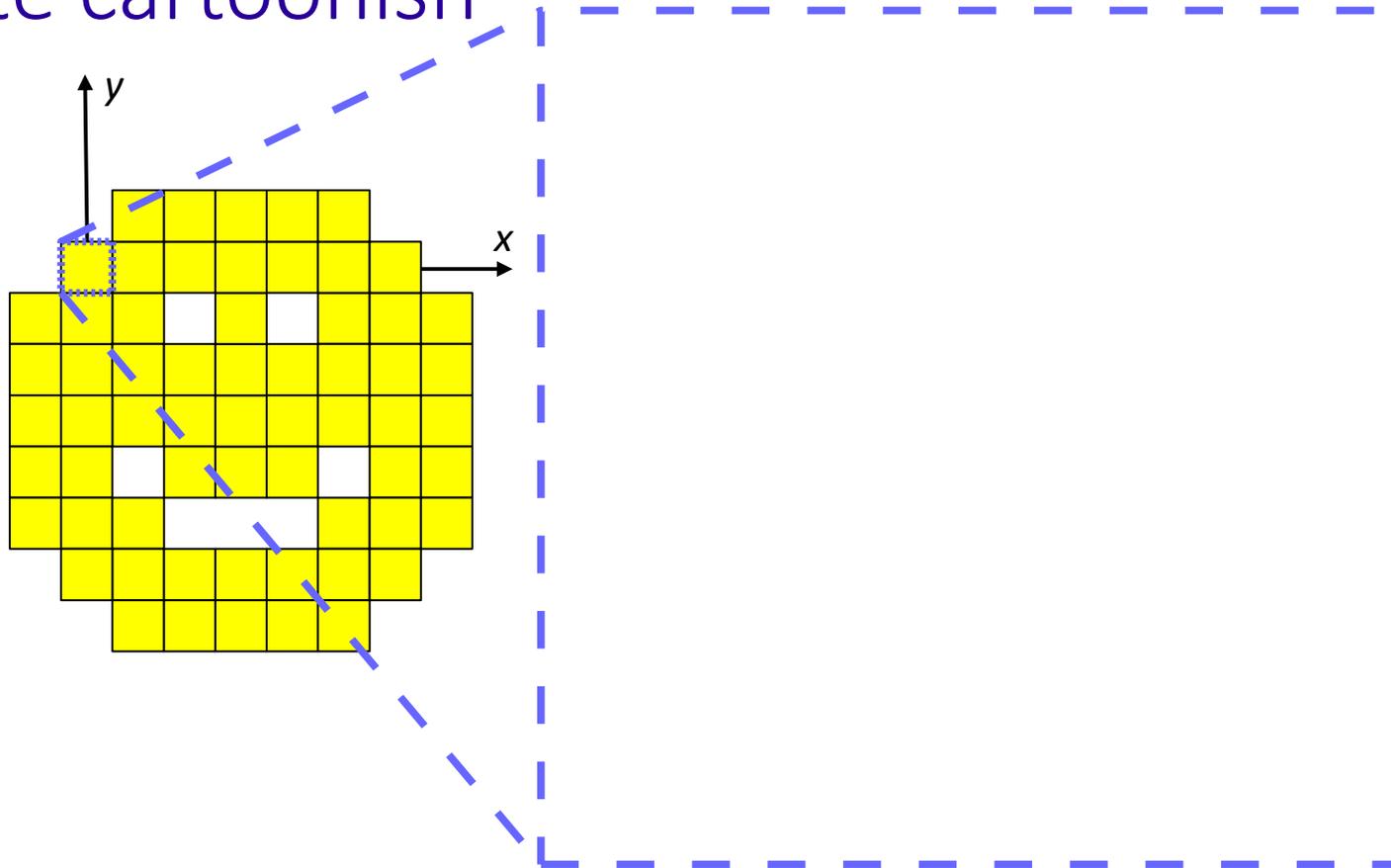
Programming a shape
(inaccurate cartoonish
overview)



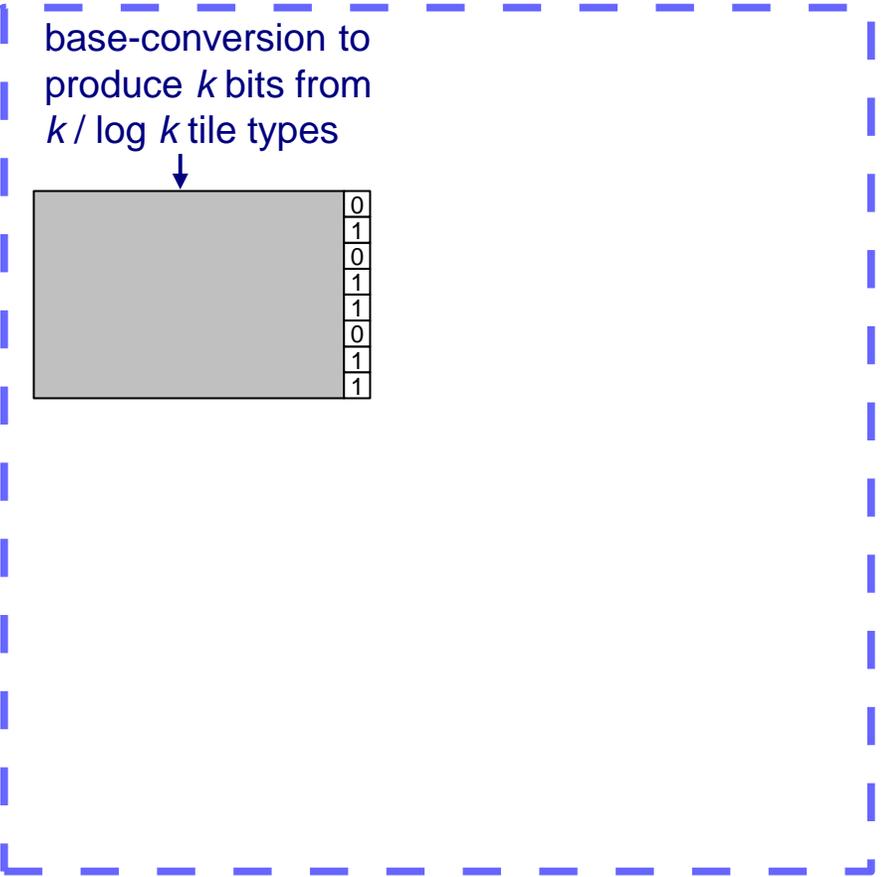
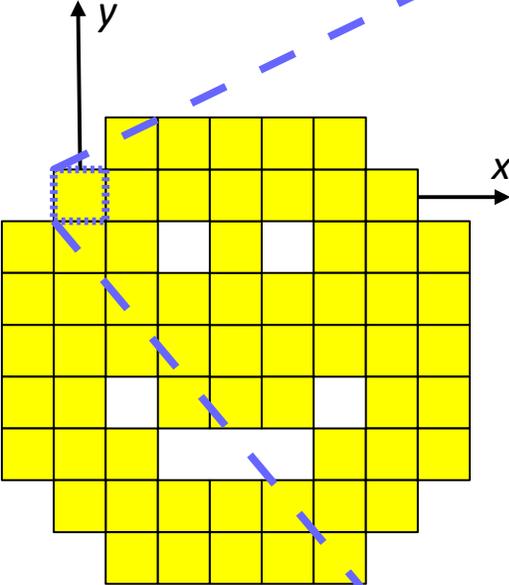
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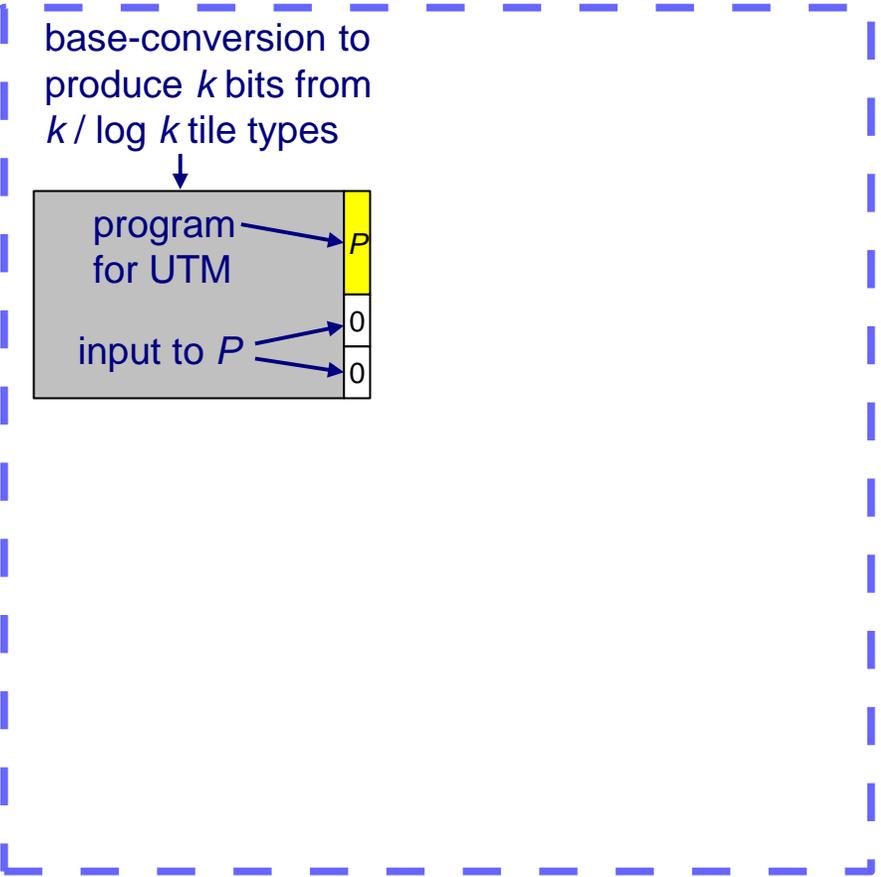
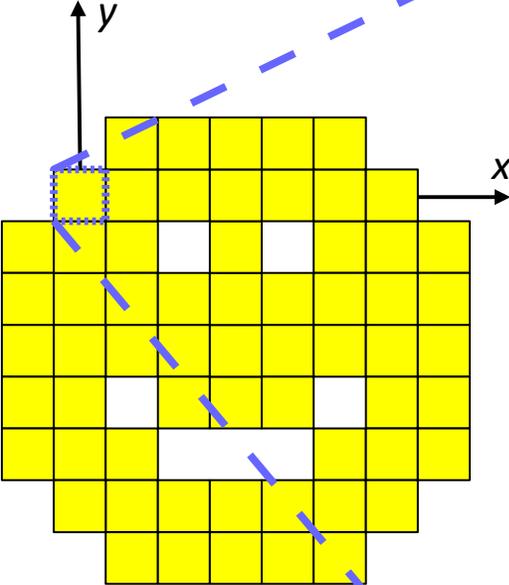
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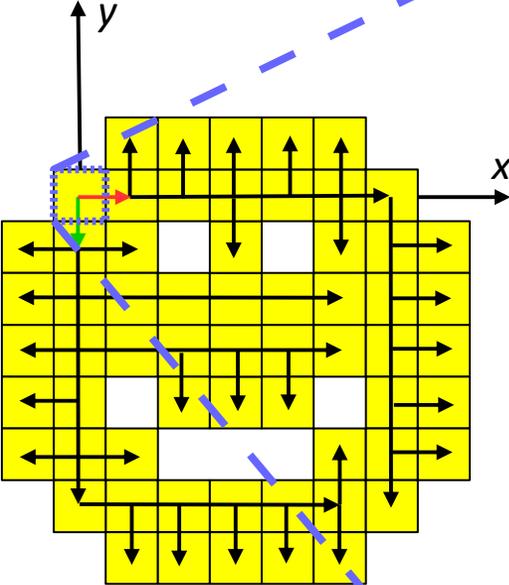
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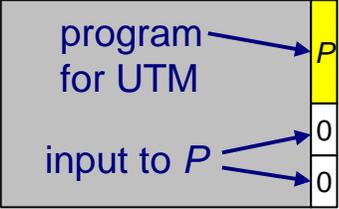
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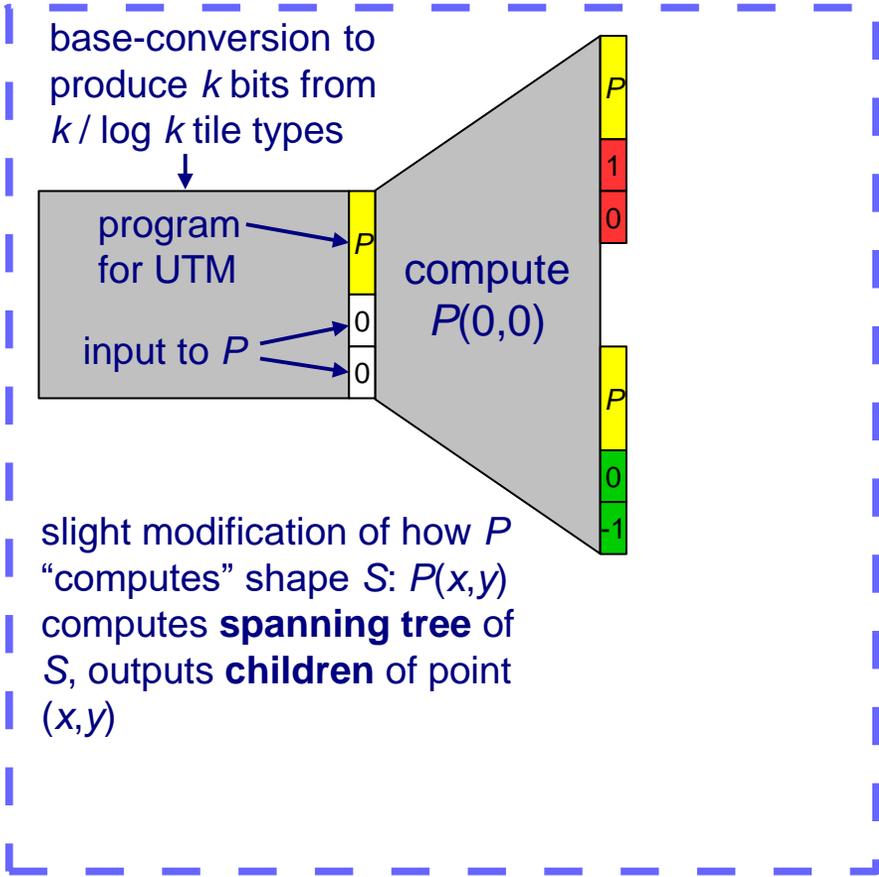
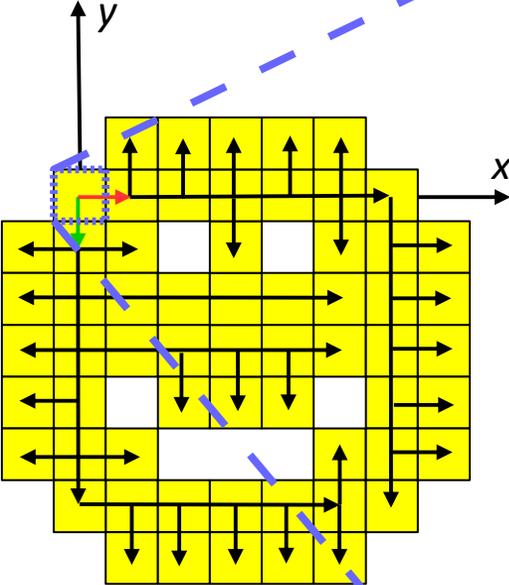


base-conversion to
produce k bits from
 $k / \log k$ tile types

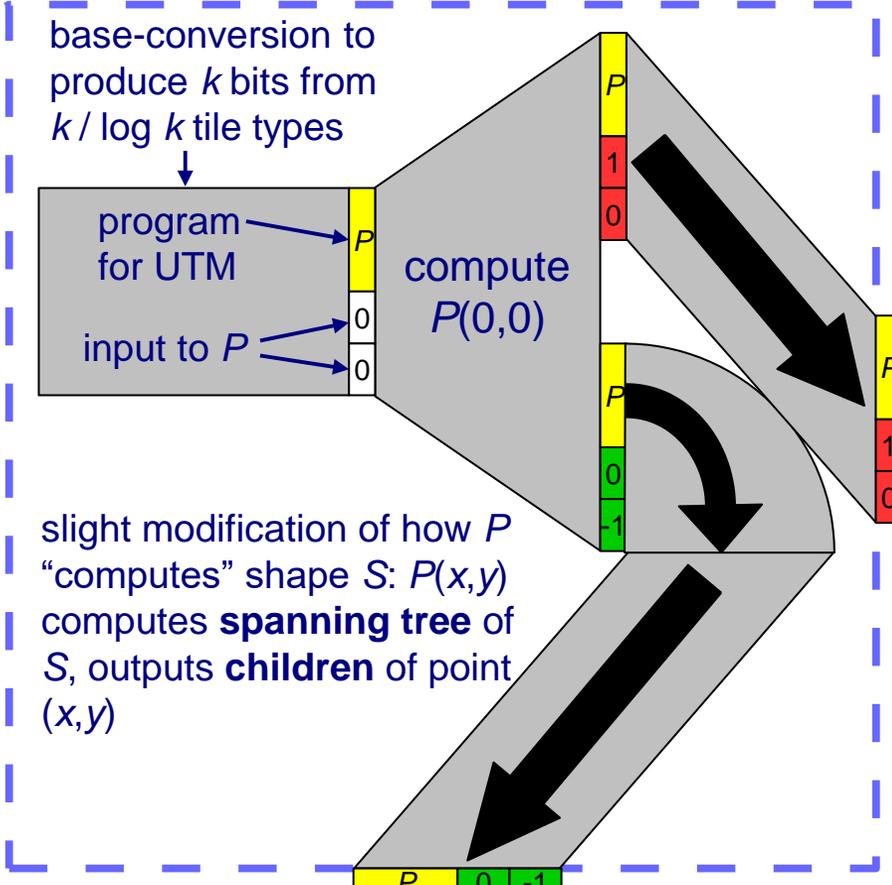
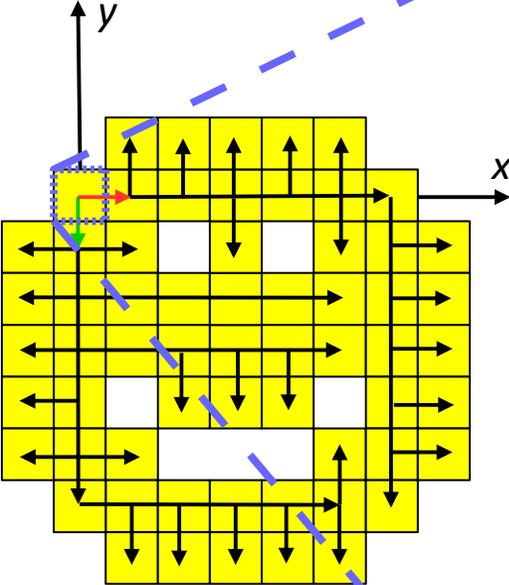


slight modification of how P
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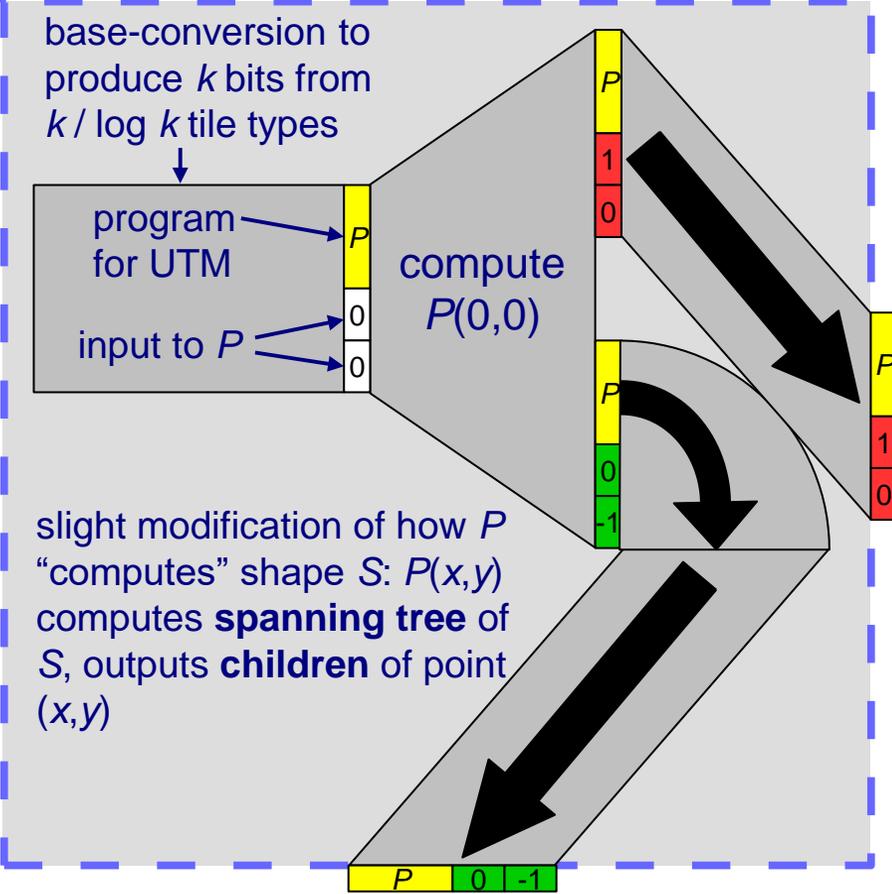
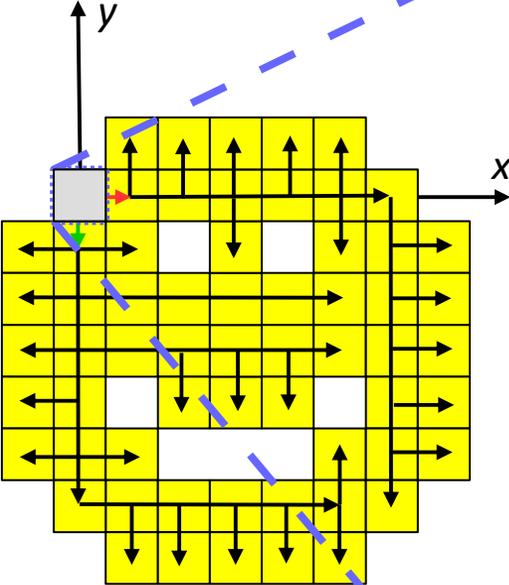
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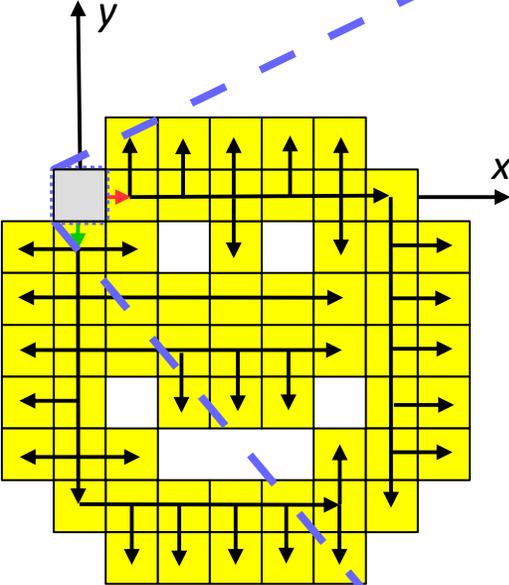
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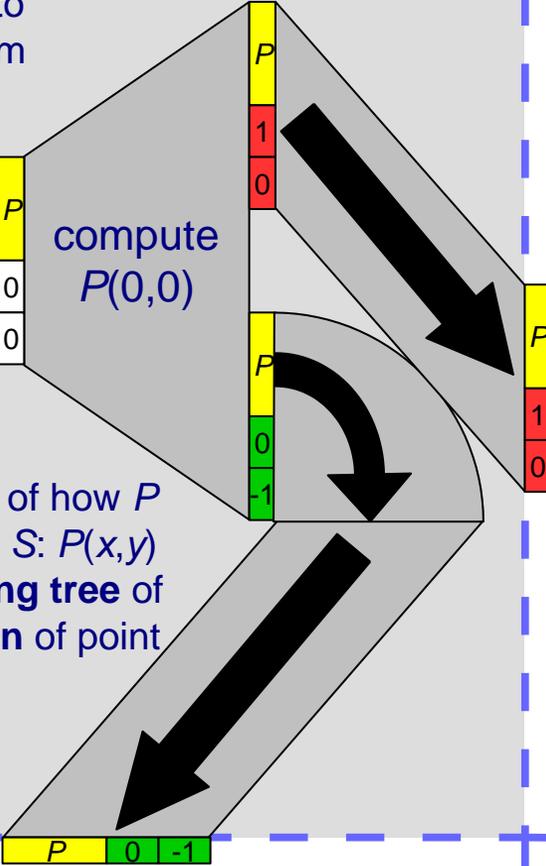


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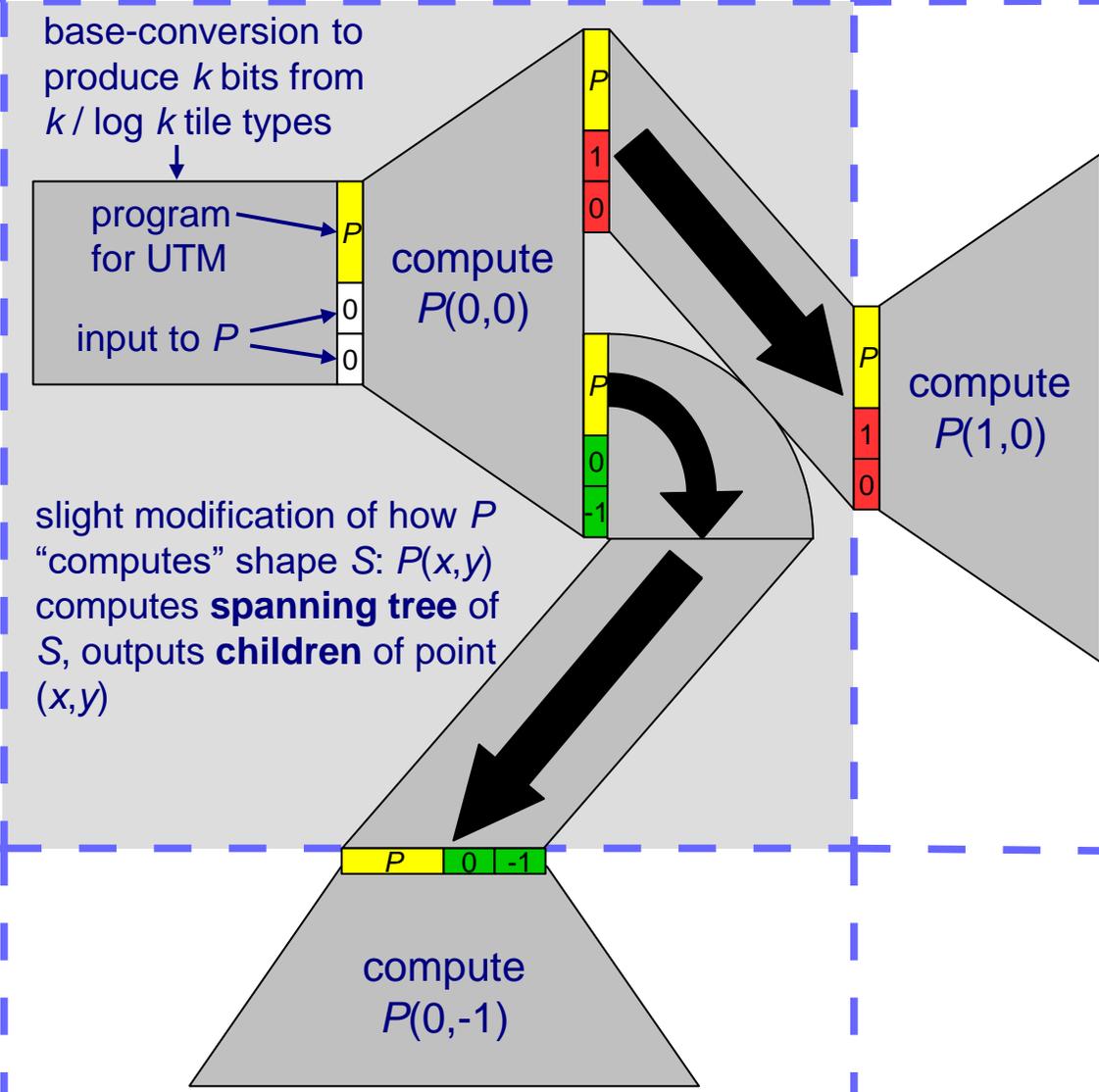
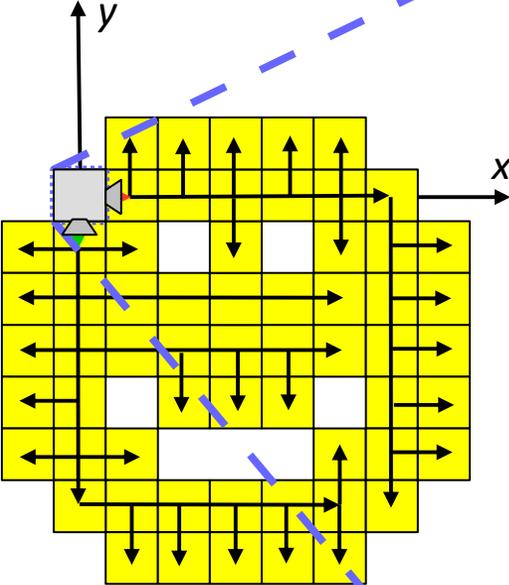
program for UTM
input to P

compute $P(0,0)$

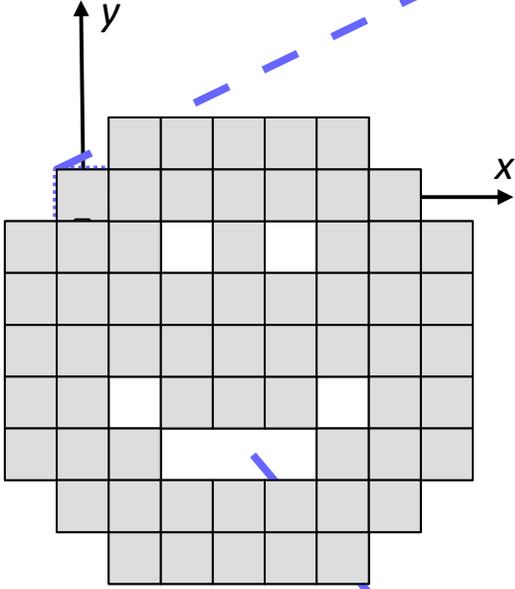
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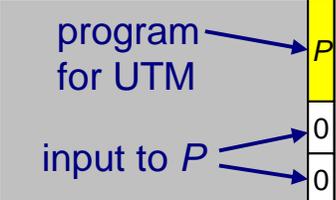
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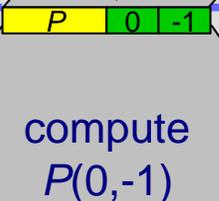
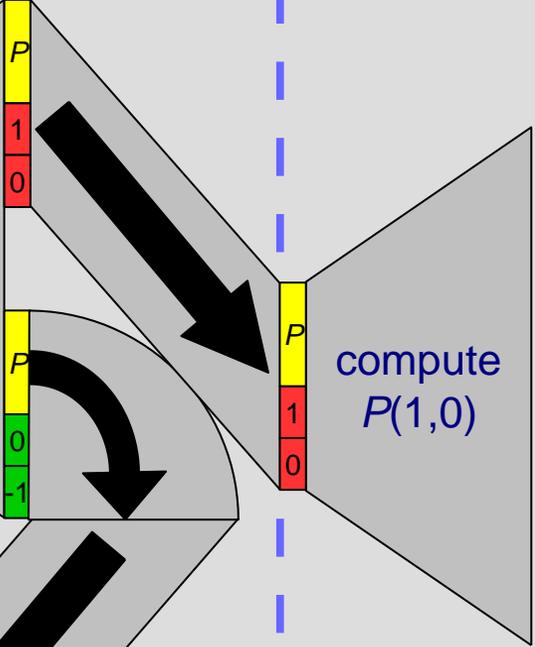


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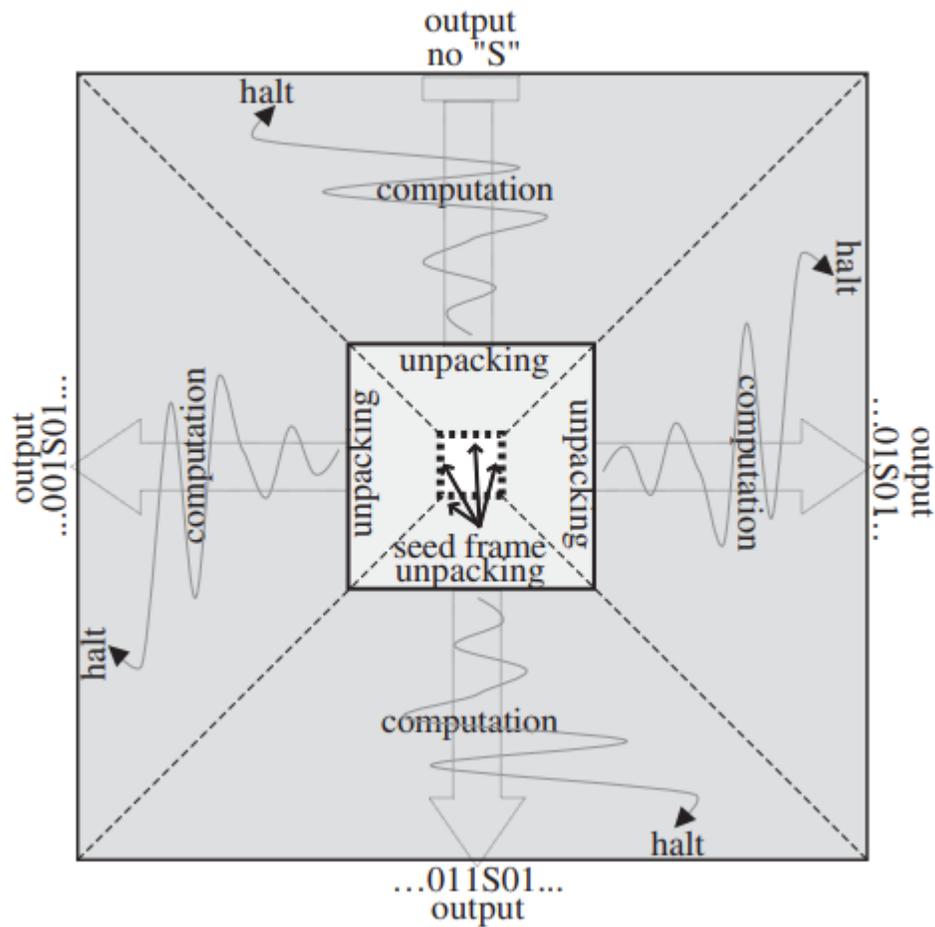
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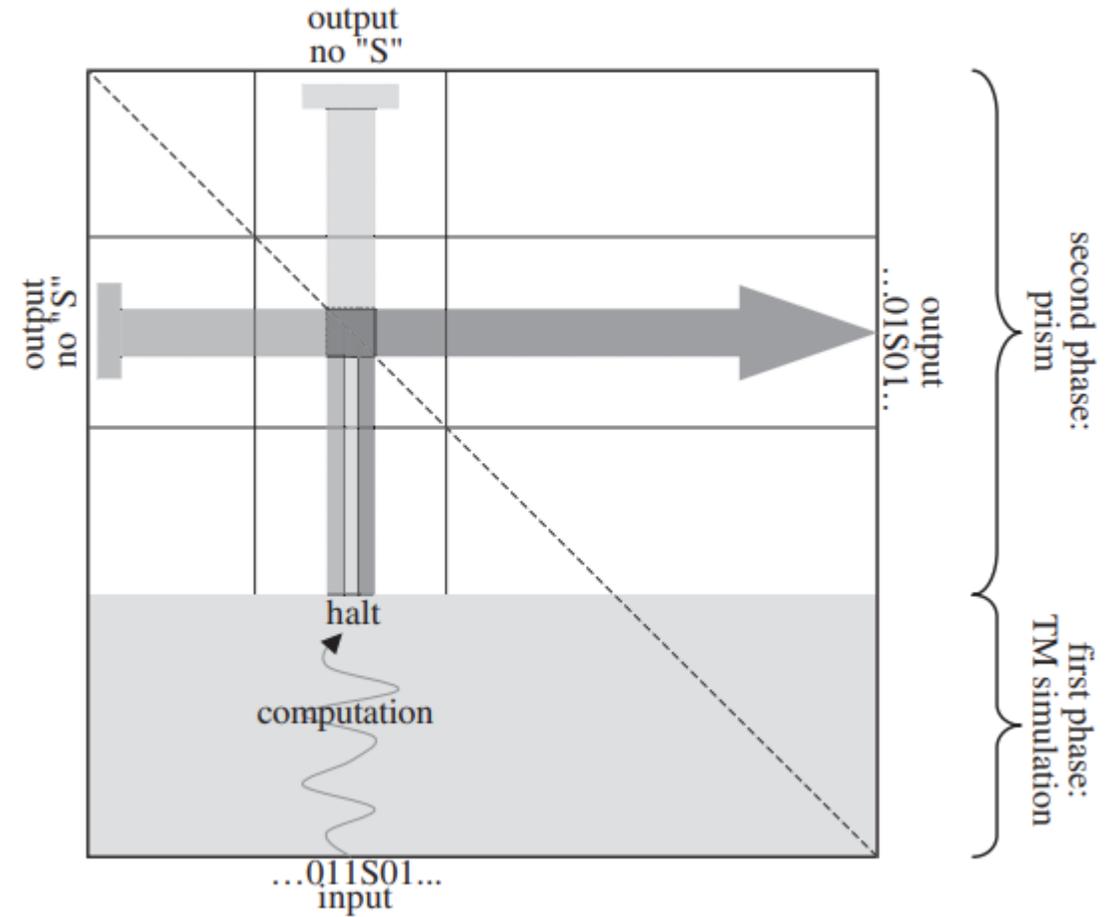


More accurate detailed overview

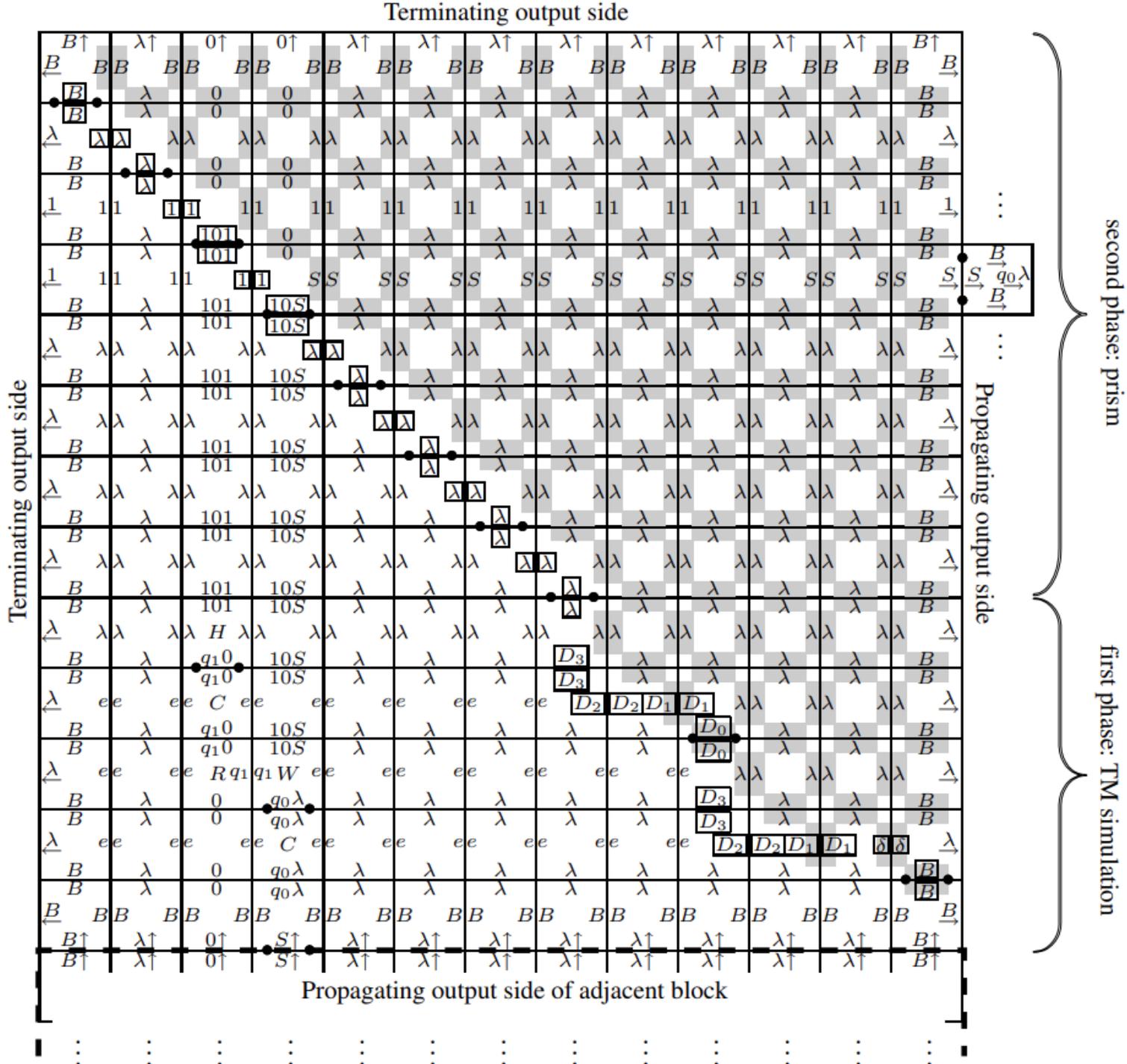
seed block



growth block



fully-detailed
example of
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Two interpretations

as stated for single seed tile:

Theorem: For any shape S , there is a constant c so that S^c can be self-assembled with $O(k / \log k)$ tile types, where k is the length in bits of the shortest program (input to a universal Turing machine) that, on input (x,y) , indicates whether $(x,y) \in S$.

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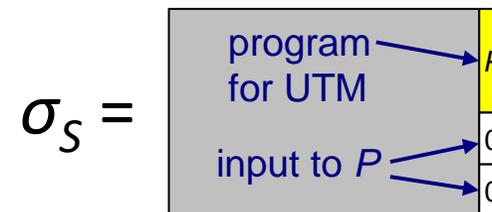
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Theorem: There is a single set T of tile types ($O(1)$ tile types), so that, for any finite shape S , there a constant c and a seed assembly σ_S "encoding" S , so that T self-assembles S^c from σ_S .



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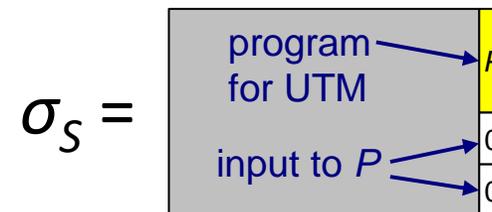
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i.e., T is a **universal** set of tile types that can self-assemble any shape, by giving it the right seed.

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Strict and weak self-assembly

Computability-theoretic questions about self-assembly

Strict and weak self-assembly

Recall:

Let $X \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^2$ be a **shape**, a connected subset of \mathbb{Z}^2 . Θ **strictly self-assembles** X if, for all $\alpha \in A_{\square}[\Theta]$, $S_{\alpha} = X$.
(every terminal producible assembly has shape X)

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Let $X \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^2$. Θ **weakly self-assembles** X if there is a subset $B \subseteq T$ (the “blue tiles”) such that, for all $\alpha \in A_{\square}[\Theta]$, $X = \alpha^{-1}(B)$.
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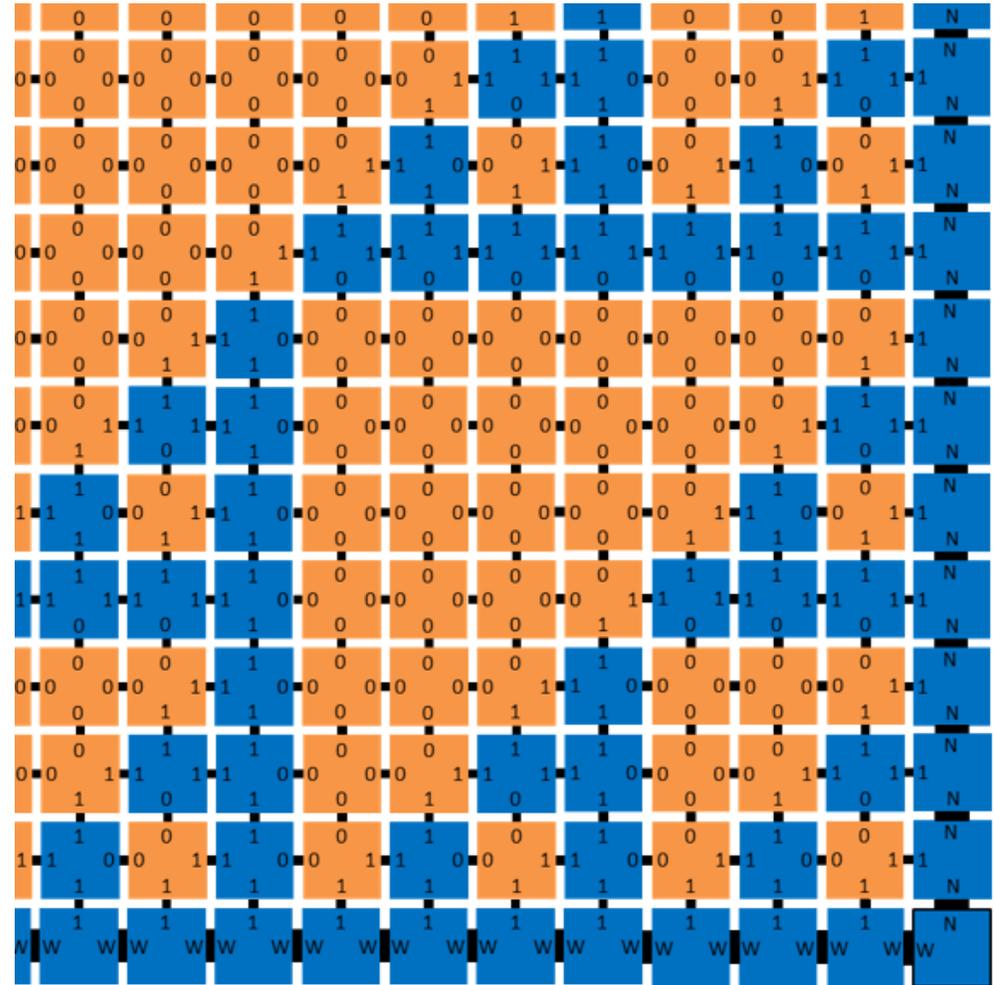
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Tile system on right strictly self-assembles the whole second quadrant, and it weakly self-assembles the discrete Sierpinski triangle.



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Use that fact now to define an explicit shape that cannot be strictly self-assembled.

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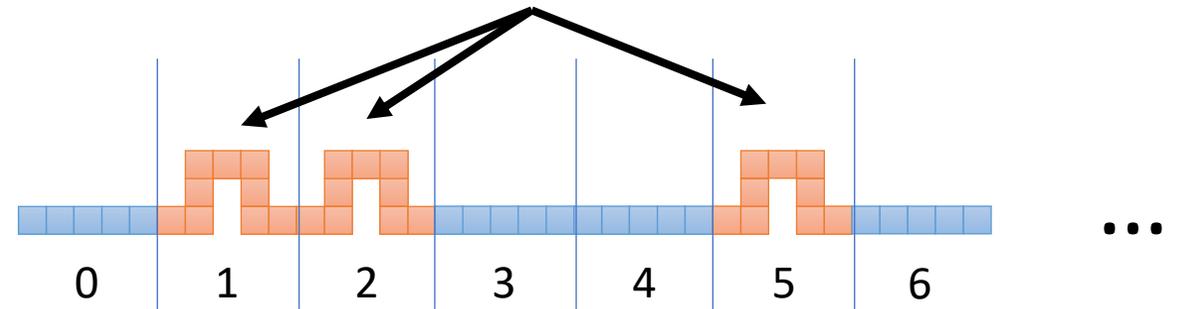
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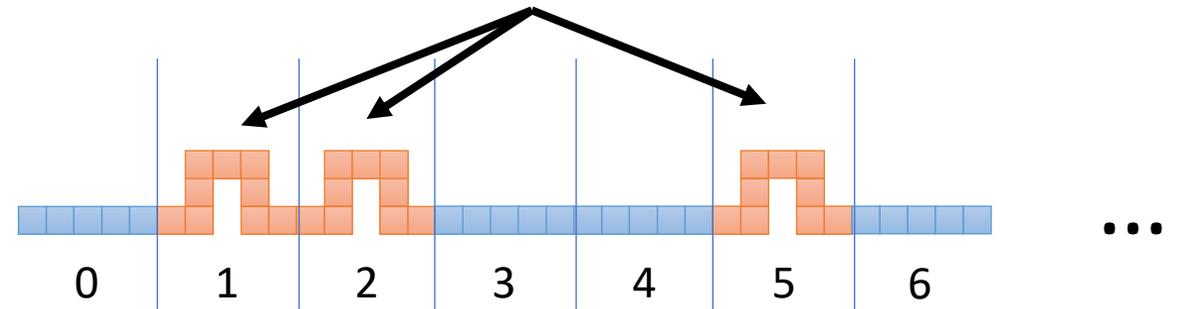
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Question: Is there a computable shape $S \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^2$ that cannot be strictly self-assembled?

A famous fractal

- Let $S_0 = \{ (0,0) \}$
- Let $V = \{ (0,0), (0,1), (1,0) \}$ be three vectors for “recursive translation”.



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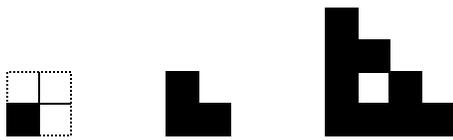
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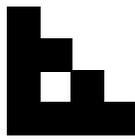
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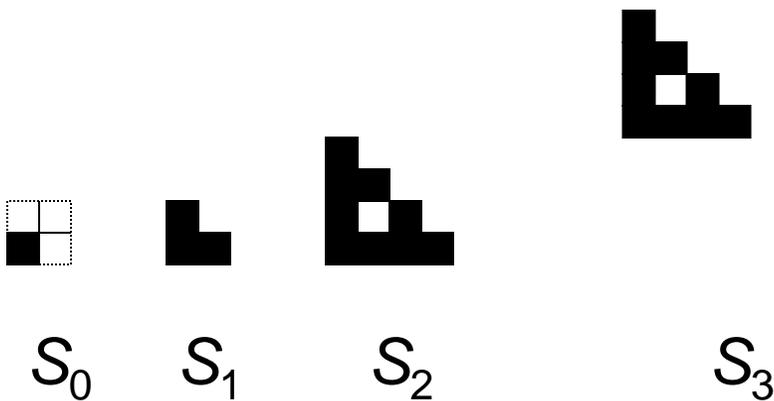


S_2

S_3

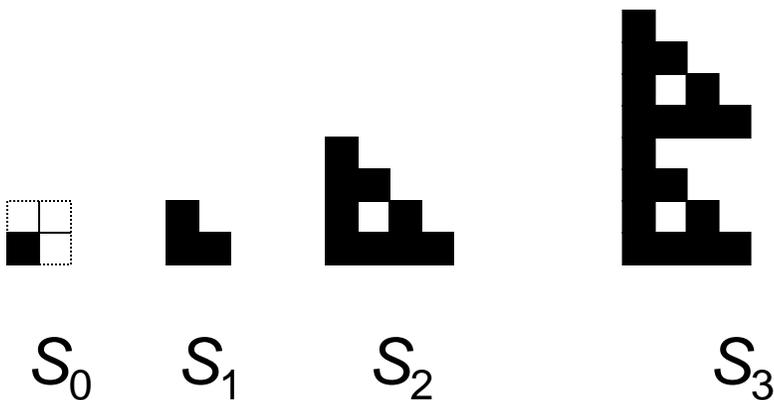
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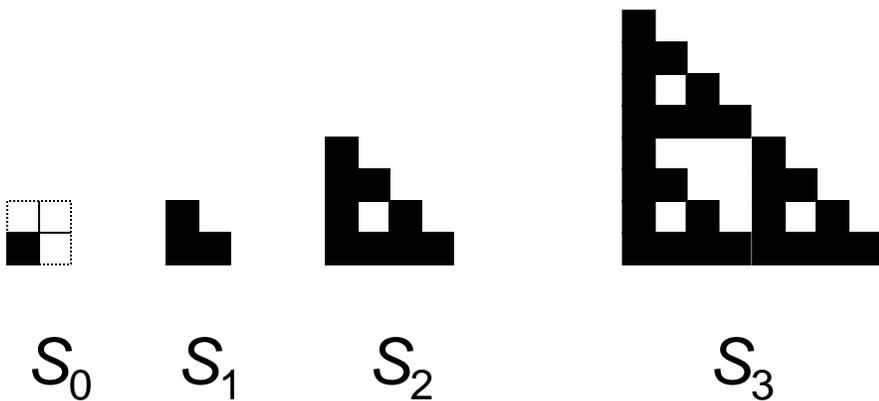
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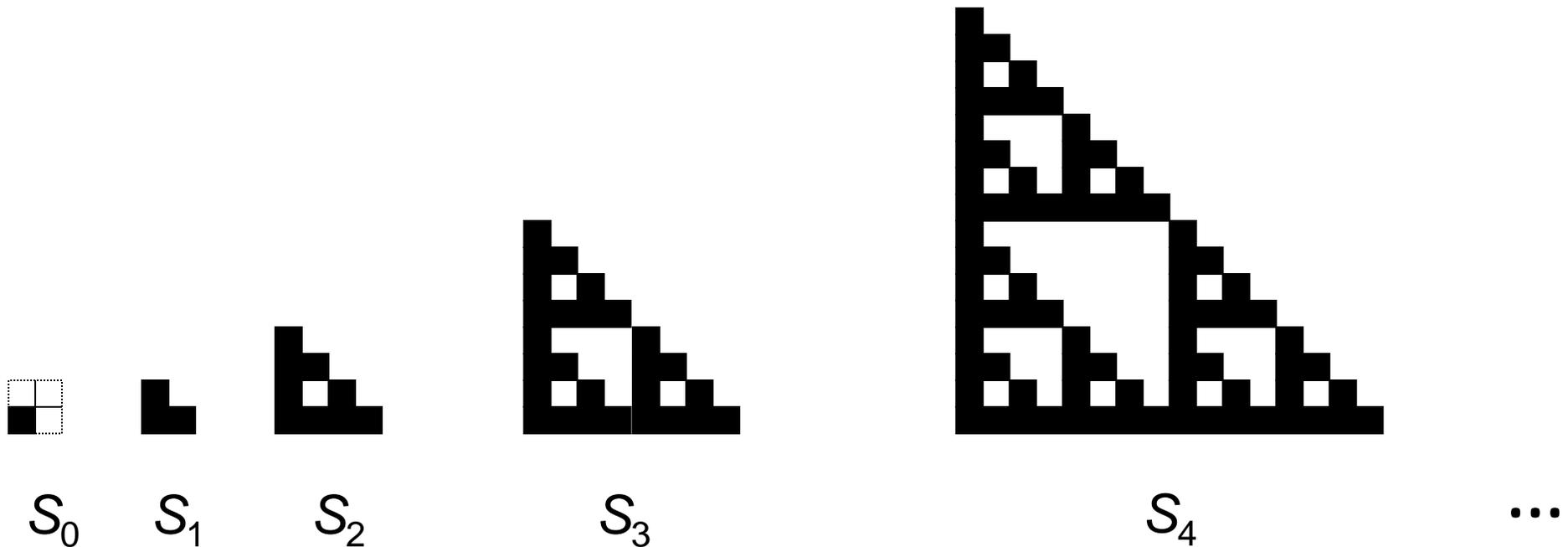
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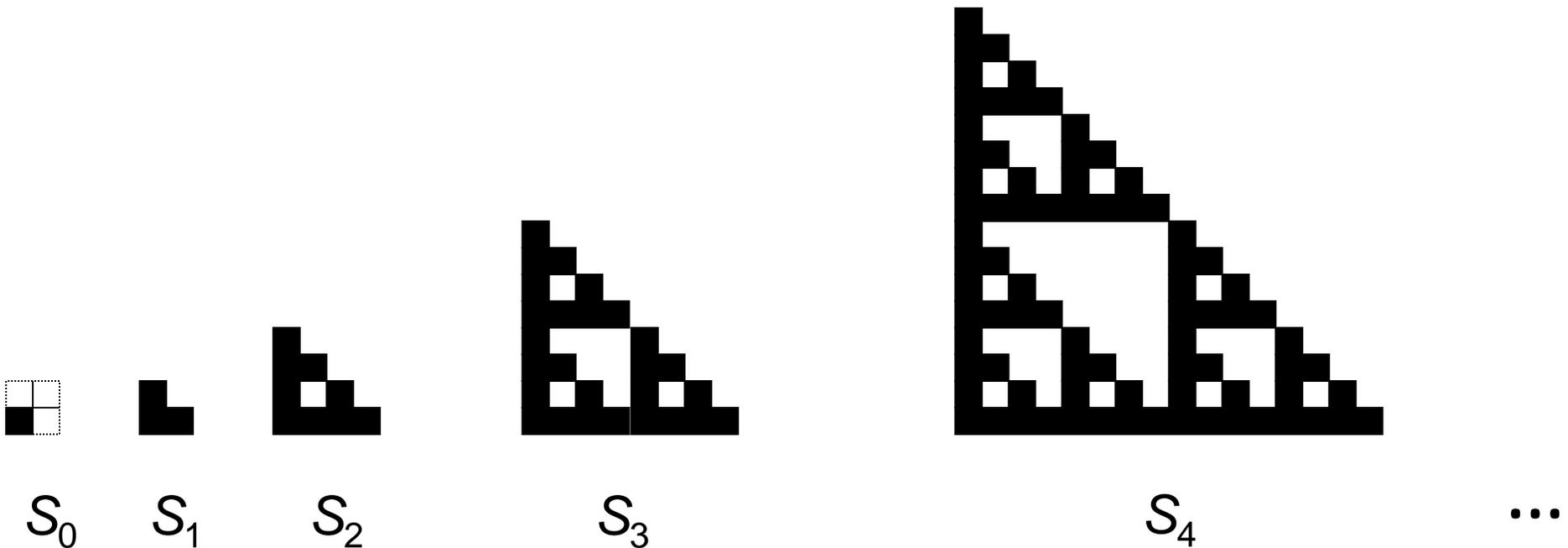
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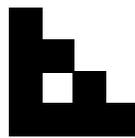
Observation: S is computable (easily).



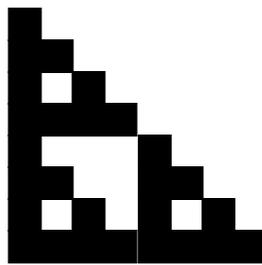
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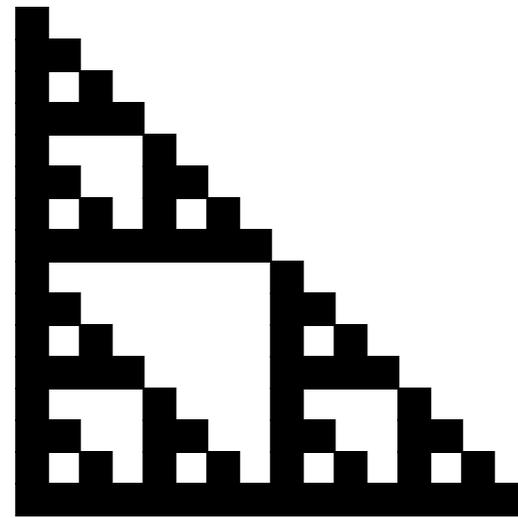
S_1



S_2



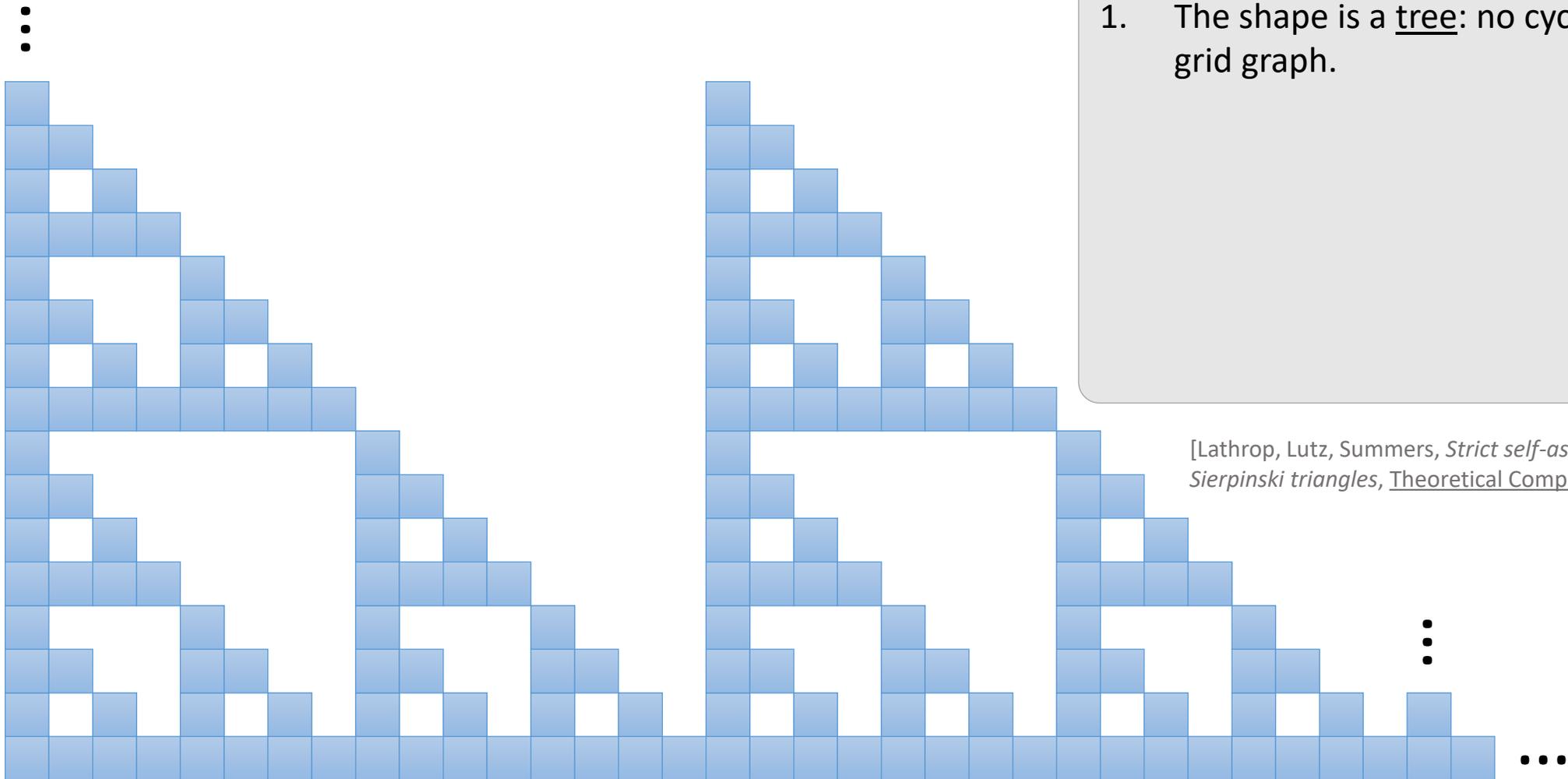
S_3



S_4

...

The discrete Sierpinski triangle cannot be strictly self-assembled

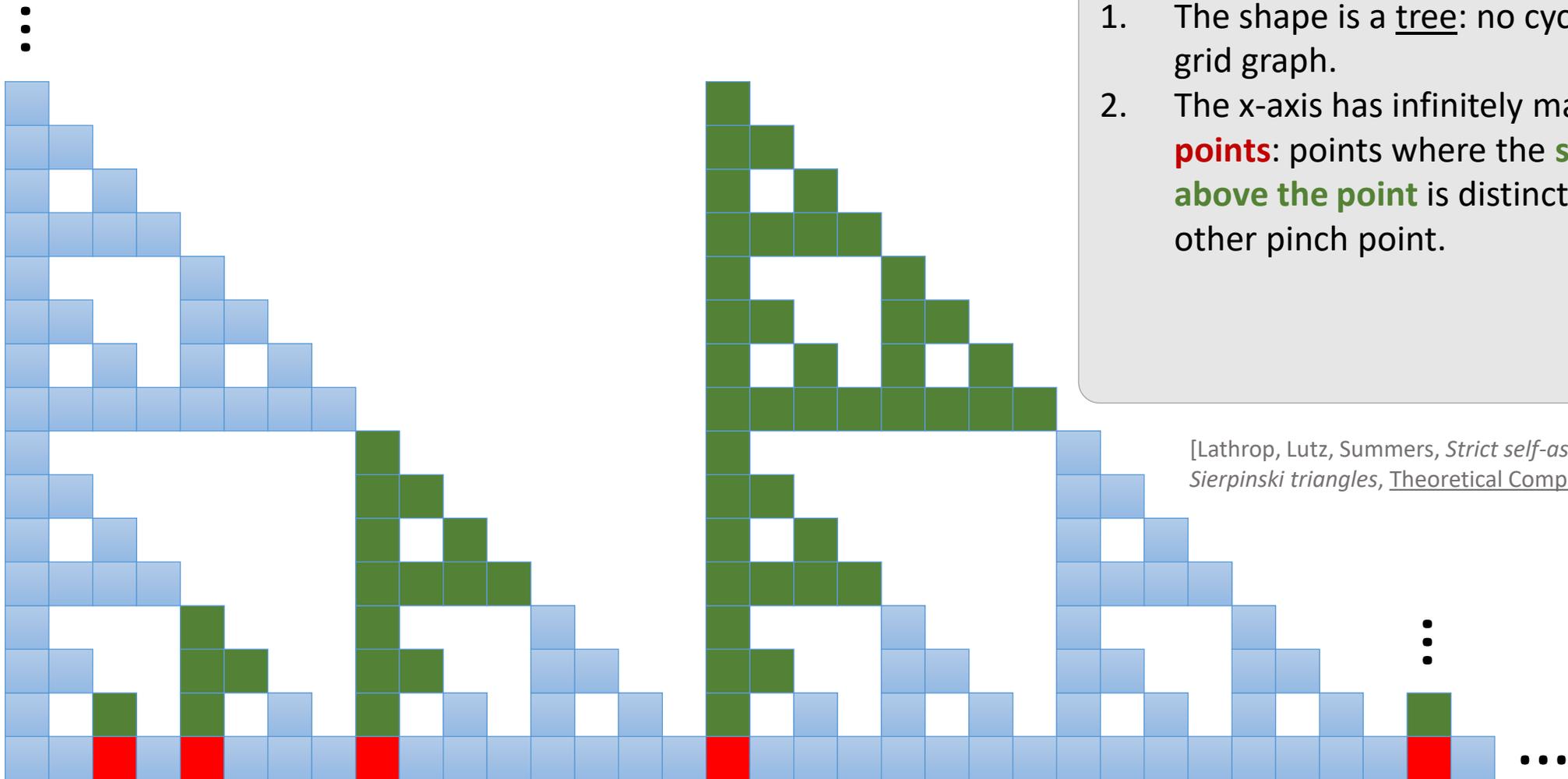


Proof:

1. The shape is a tree: no cycles in the grid graph.

[Lathrop, Lutz, Summers, *Strict self-assembly of discrete Sierpinski triangles*, [Theoretical Computer Science](#) 2009.]

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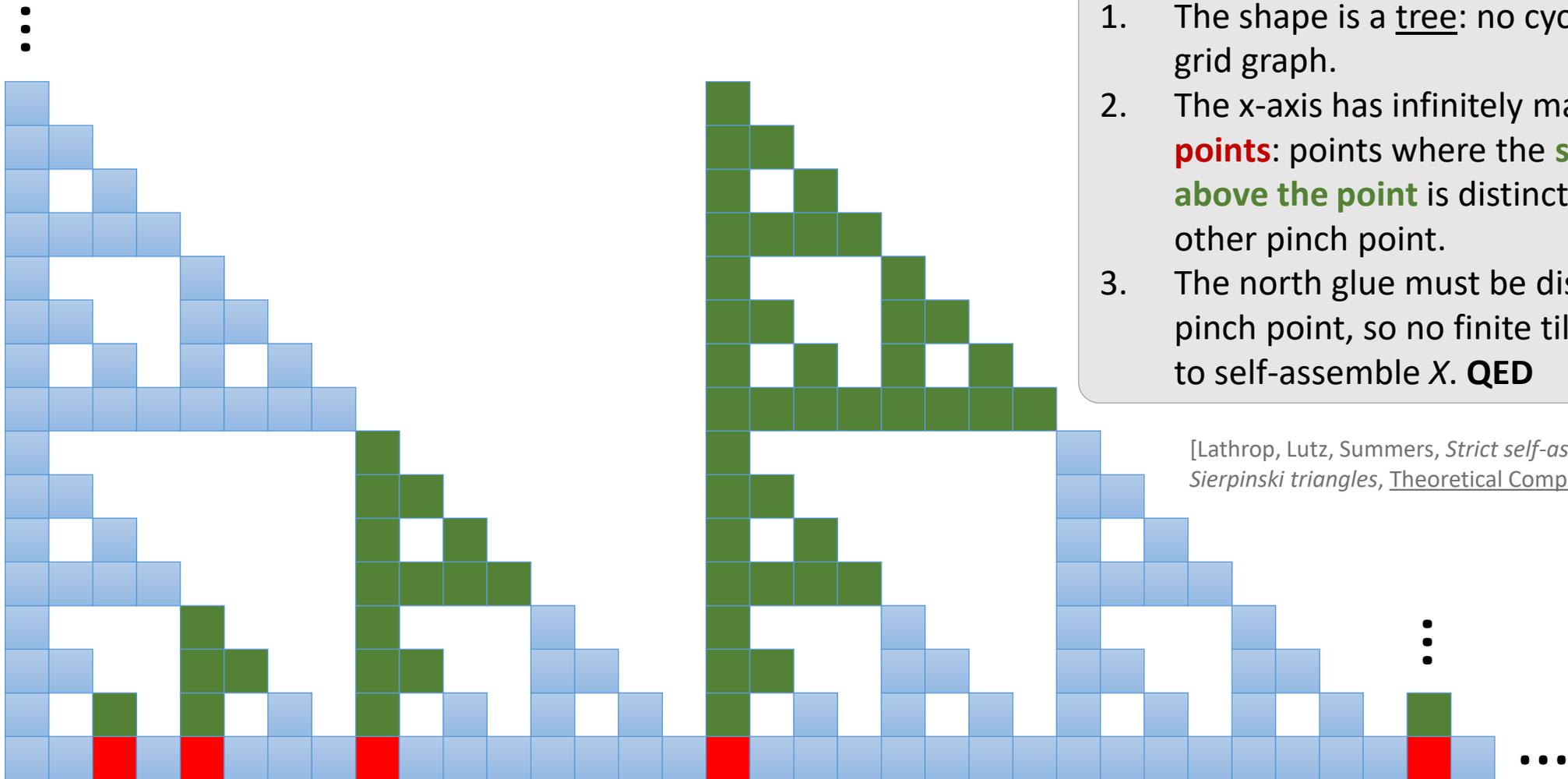


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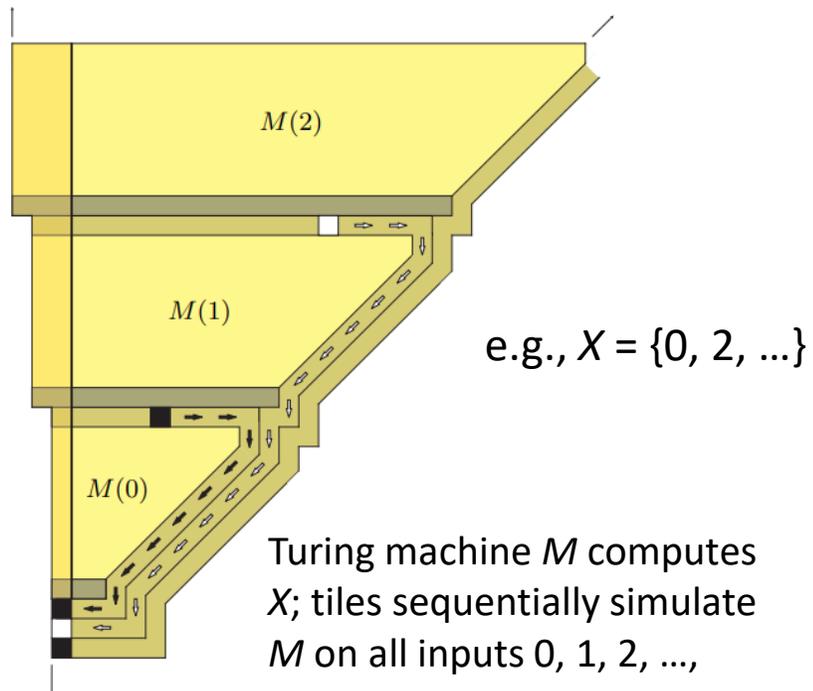
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2. The x-axis has infinitely many **pinch points**: points where the **subtree above the point** is distinct from any other pinch point.
3. The north glue must be distinct at each pinch point, so no finite tile set suffices to self-assemble X. **QED**

[Lathrop, Lutz, Summers, *Strict self-assembly of discrete Sierpinski triangles*, *Theoretical Computer Science* 2009.]

Weak self-assembly

Theorem: Every computable set $X \subseteq \mathbb{N}$, “embedded straightforwardly” in \mathbb{Z}^2 , can be weakly self-assembled.

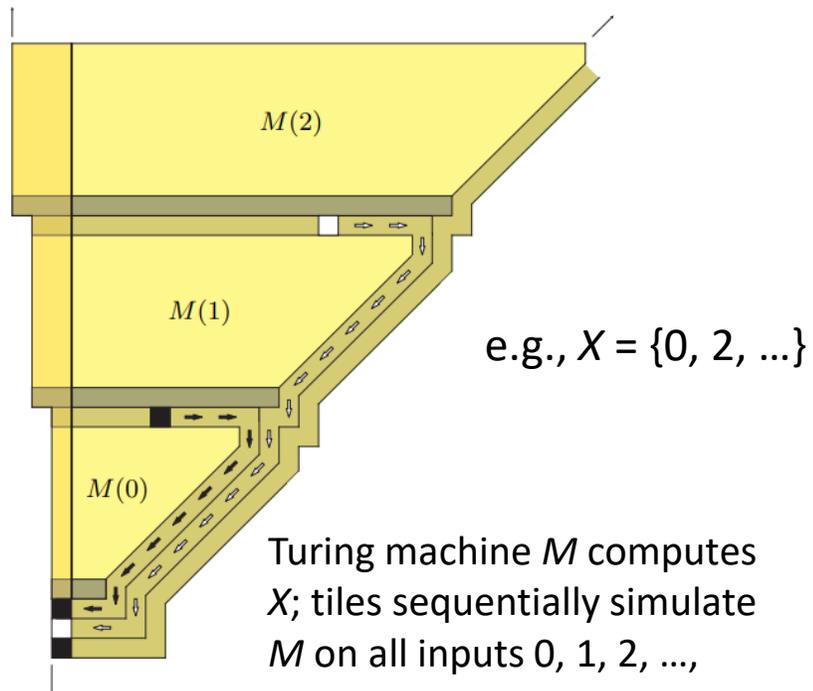


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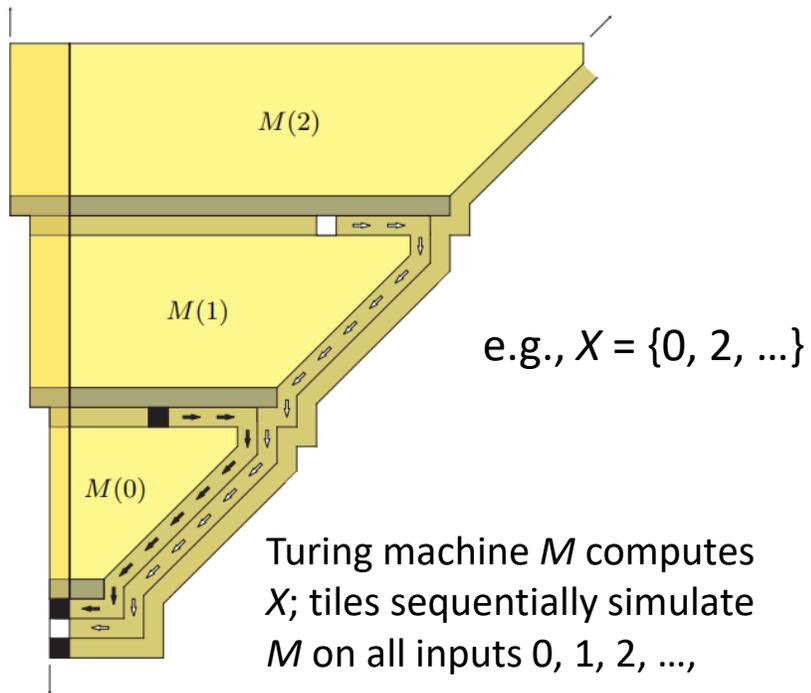
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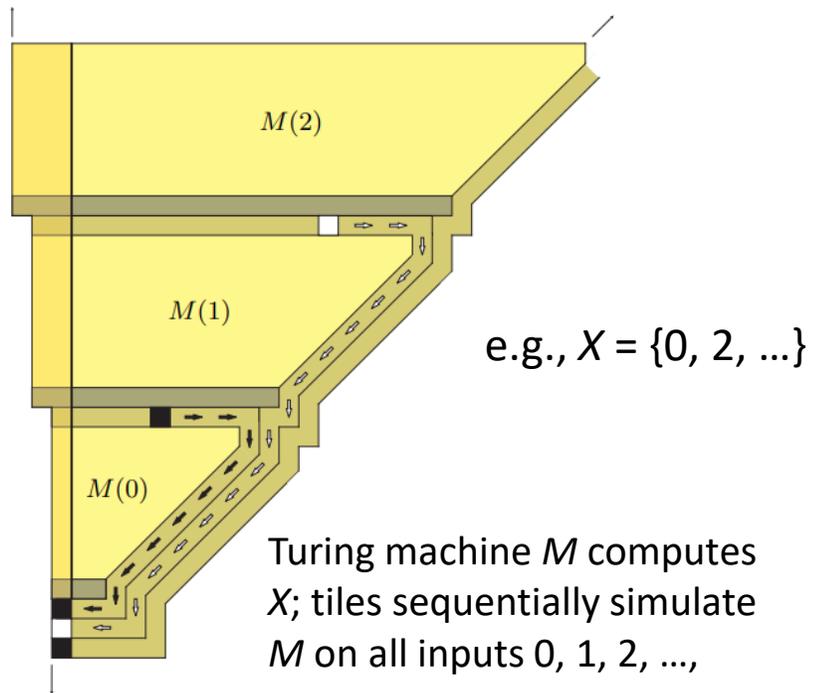
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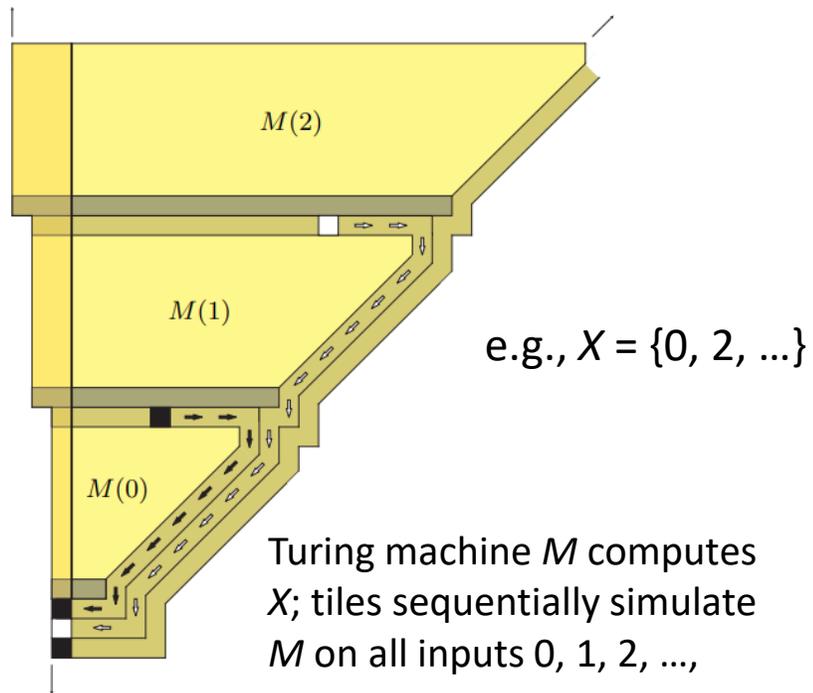
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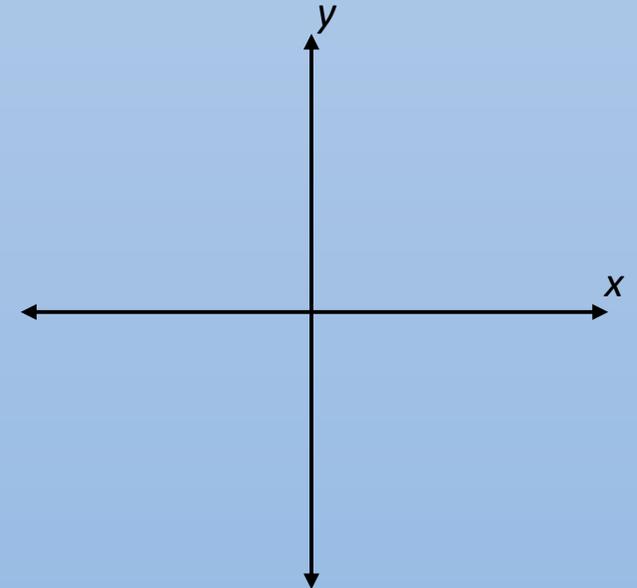


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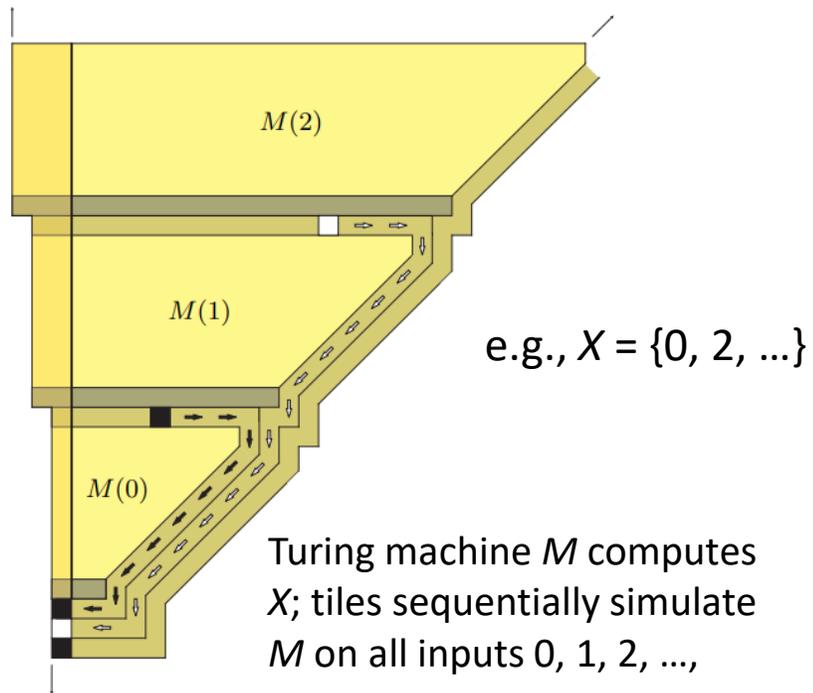
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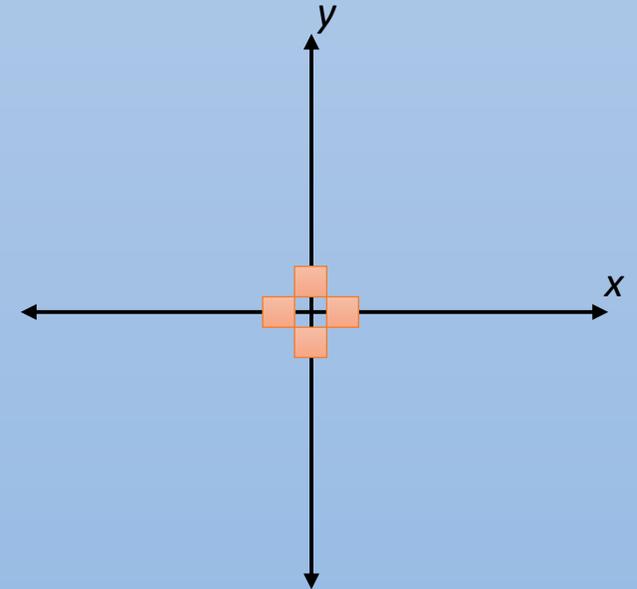


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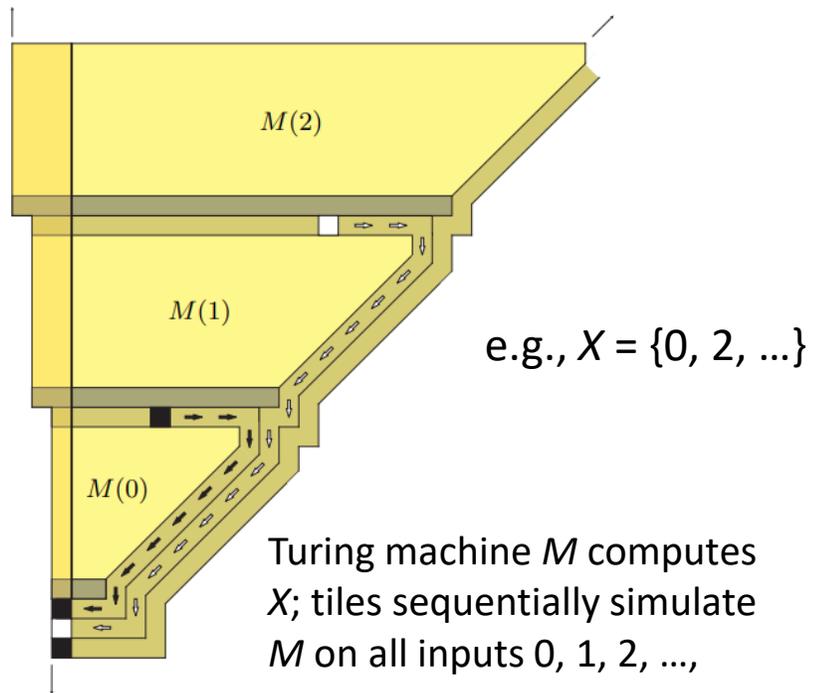
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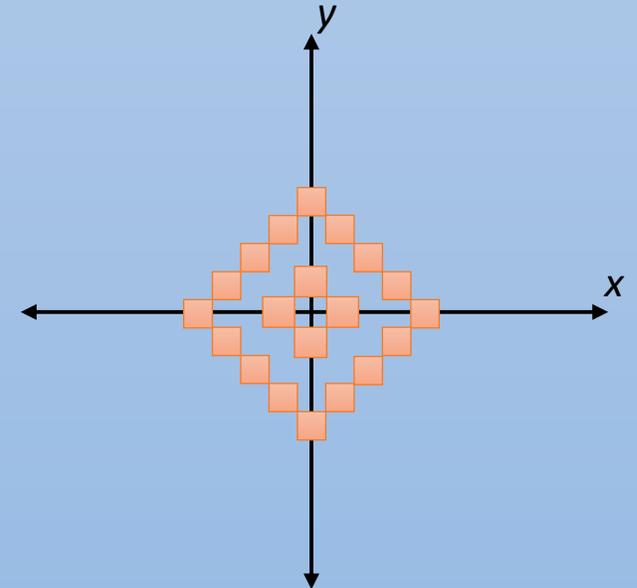


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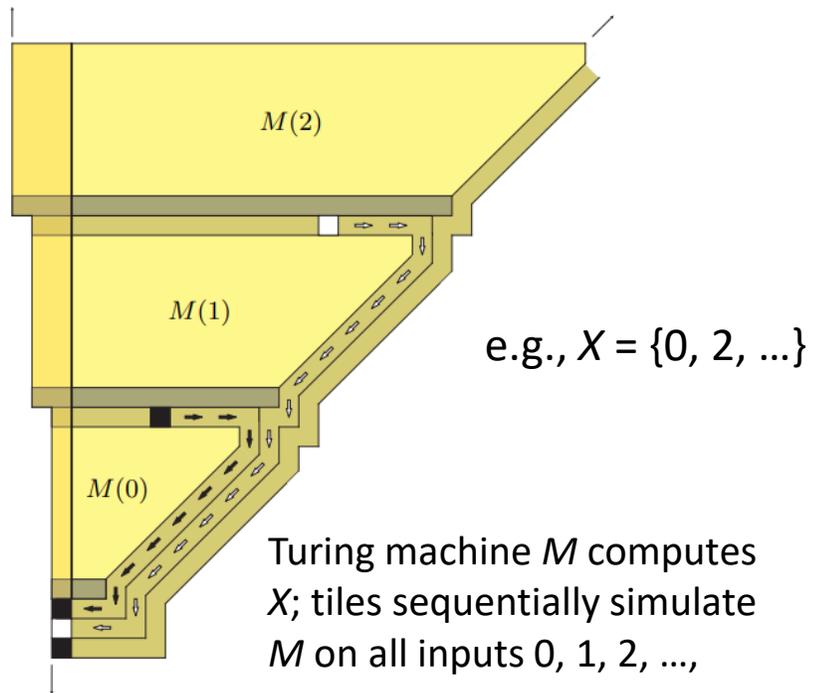
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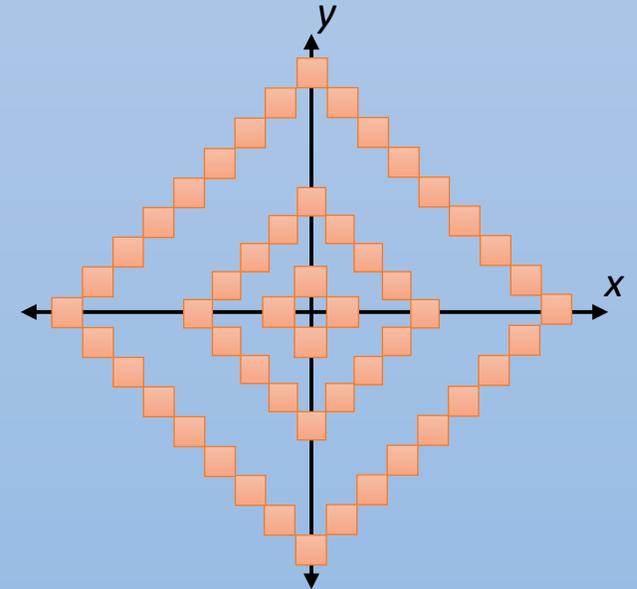


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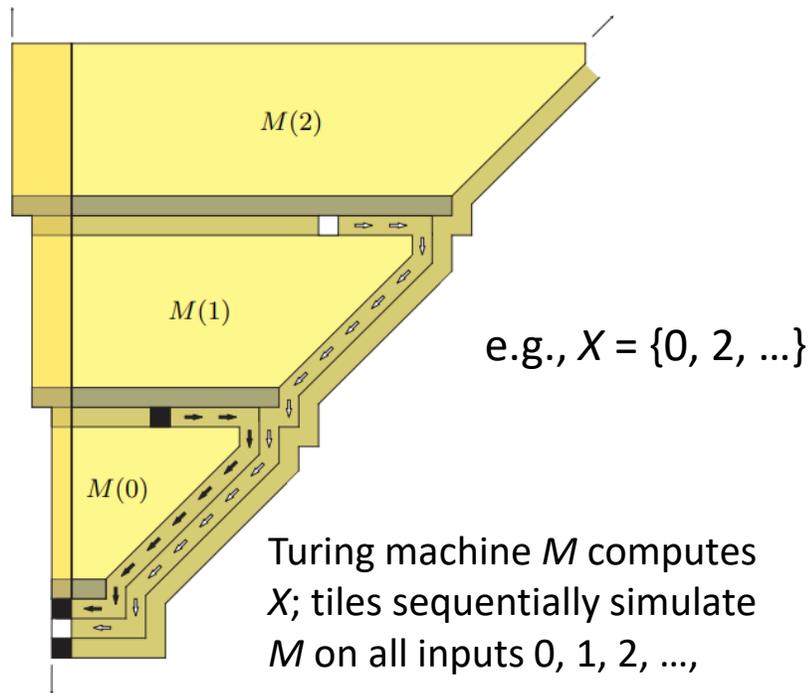
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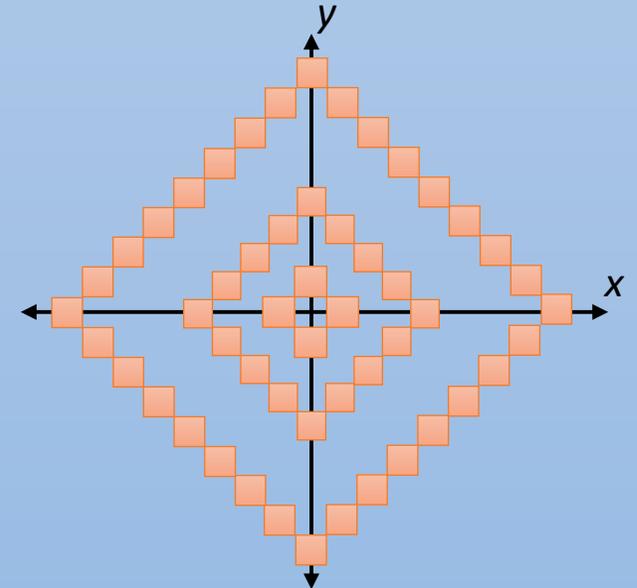


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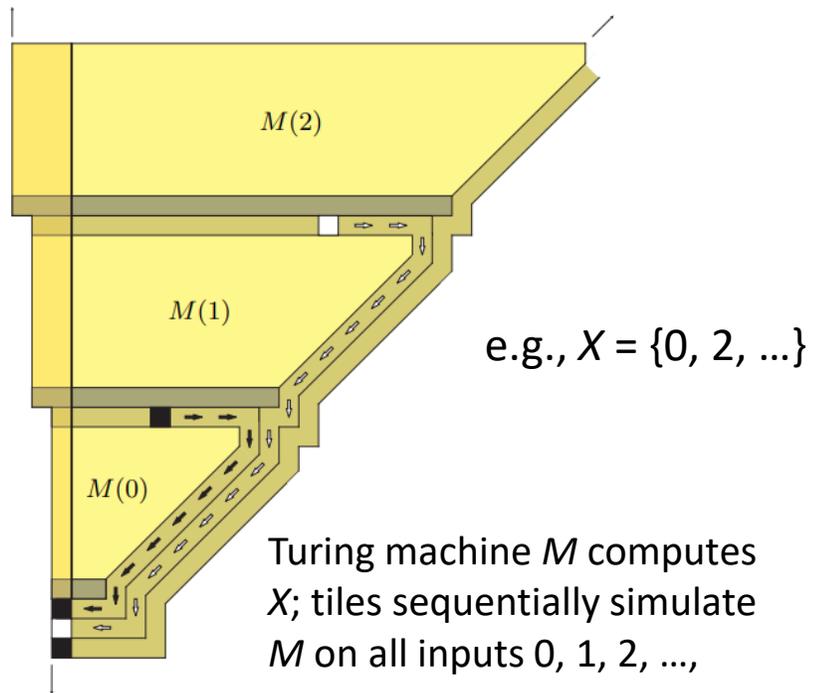


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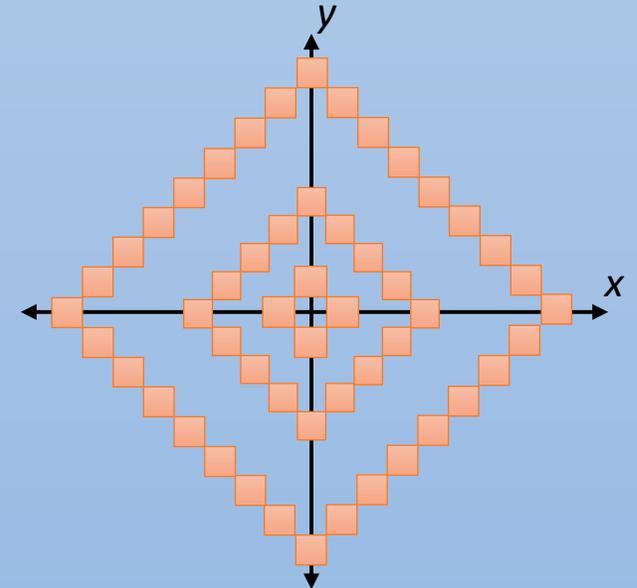


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5. This can be done in time $O(n^4)$ time (why?), a contradiction. **QED**

[Lathrop, Lutz, Patitz, Summers, *Computability and Complexity in Self-Assembly*, [CIE 2008](#).]

Randomized self-assembly

Tile complexity of universal shape construction

- Recall: if we can have a seed structure encoding a shape S (in a binary string $x \in \{0,1\}^*$, in glues on one side), we can self-assemble some scaling S^c of S with $O(1)$ additional tile types that read and interpret x .

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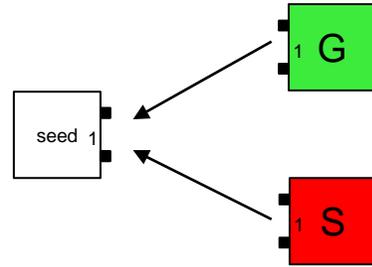
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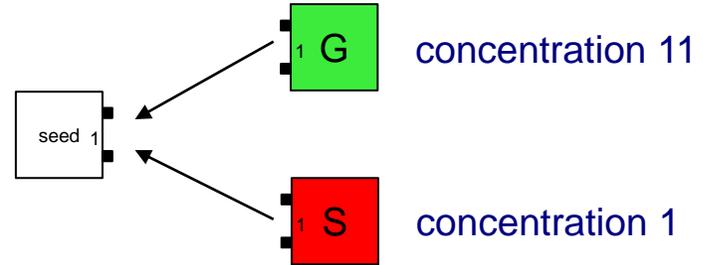
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 - i.e., move the effort from designing new tile types to (*the plausibly simpler lab step of*) altering concentrations of existing tile types

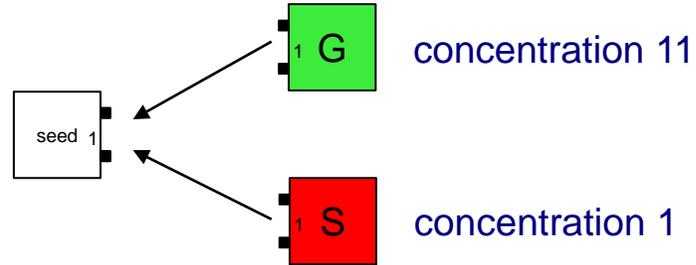
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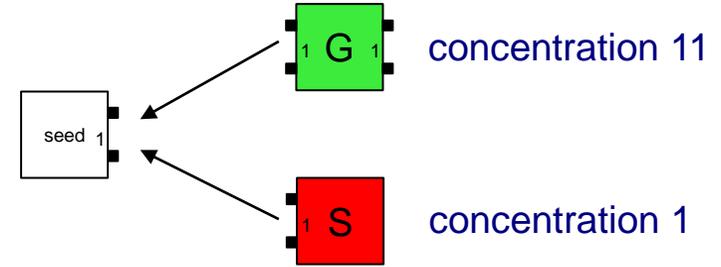


$$\Pr[\text{seed 1} \text{ } \text{1 G}] = 11/12$$

$$\Pr[\text{seed 1} \text{ } \text{1 S}] = 1/12$$

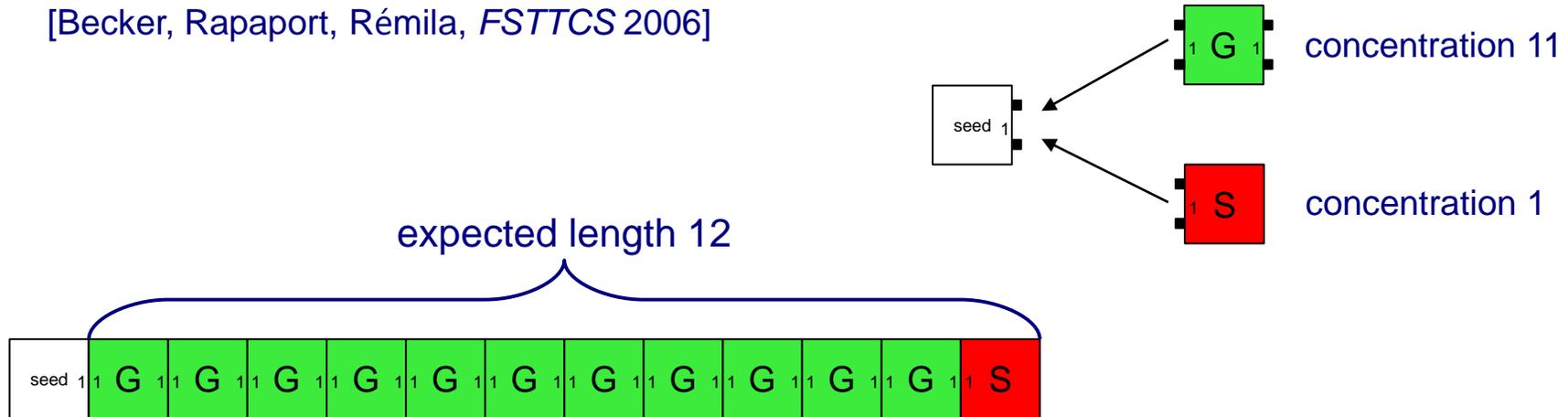
Programming polymer length with concentrations

[Becker, Rapaport, Rémila, *FSTTCS* 2006]



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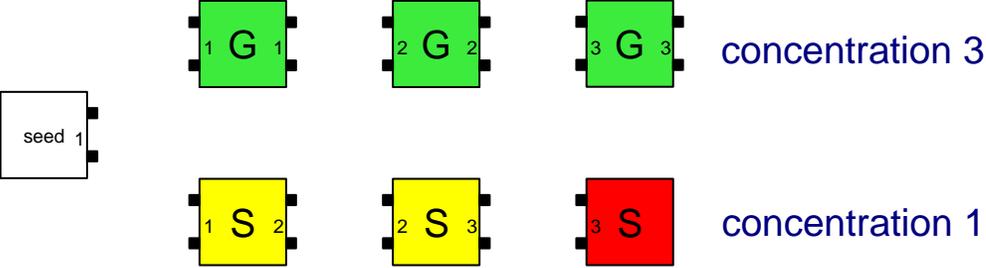
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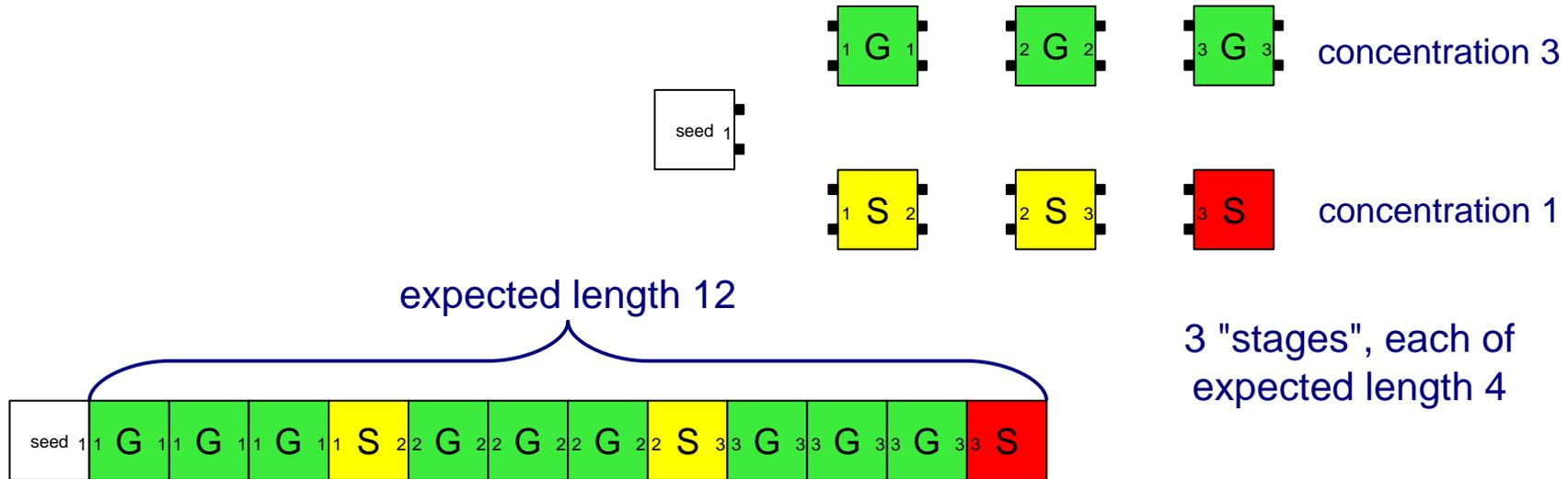


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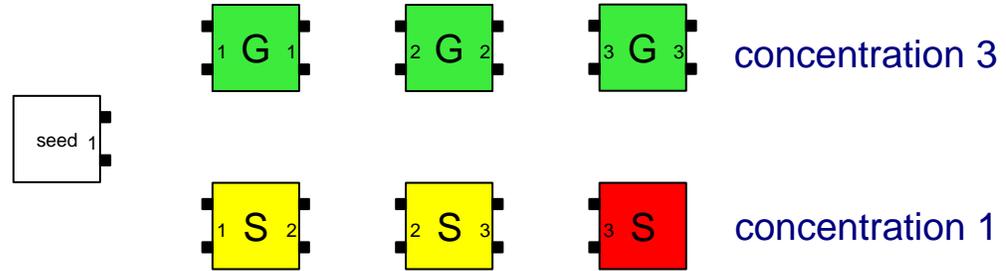


3 "stages", each of expected length 4

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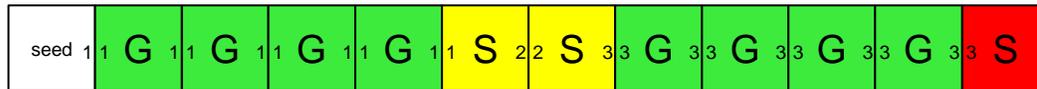


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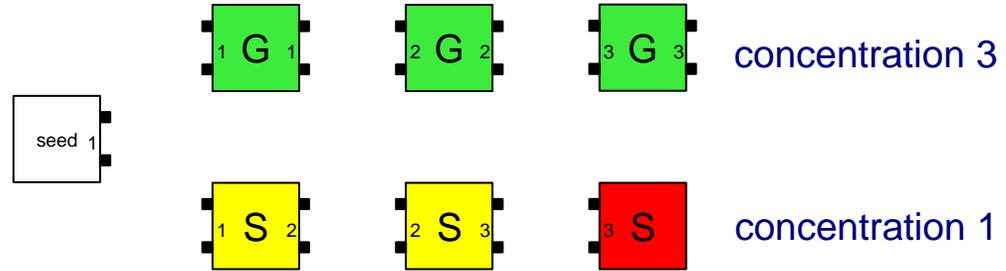


expected length 12

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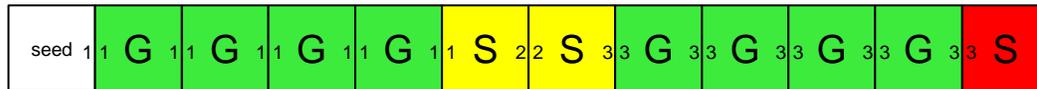
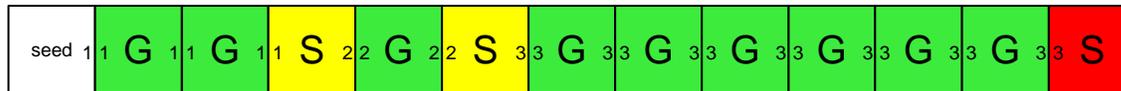


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Lower variance...
how much lower?

Bounding the probability the length deviates much from its mean

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Let $\delta \approx 0.27$ and set p such that $r/p(1-\delta) = 2^k$.

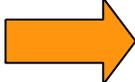
Let $\delta' \approx 0.44$: then $r/p(1+\delta') \approx 2^{k-1}$.

Applying this to our setting gives

$$\Pr[\mathbf{L}(r,p) \text{ is not between } 2^{k-1} \text{ and } 2^k] < 2 \cdot 0.9421^r$$

Programming polymer length (improved)

if $r = 90$ stages, expected length midway in $[2^{k-1}, 2^k)$

 with probability $> 99\%$, **actual** length in $[2^{k-1}, 2^k)$

1 2 4 8

16

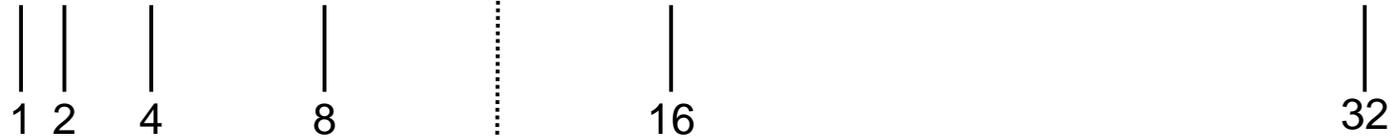
32

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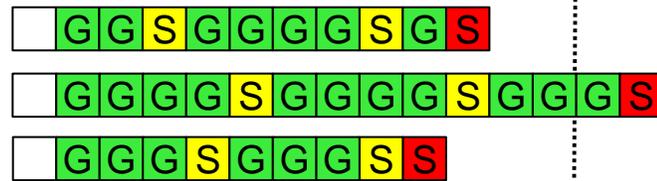


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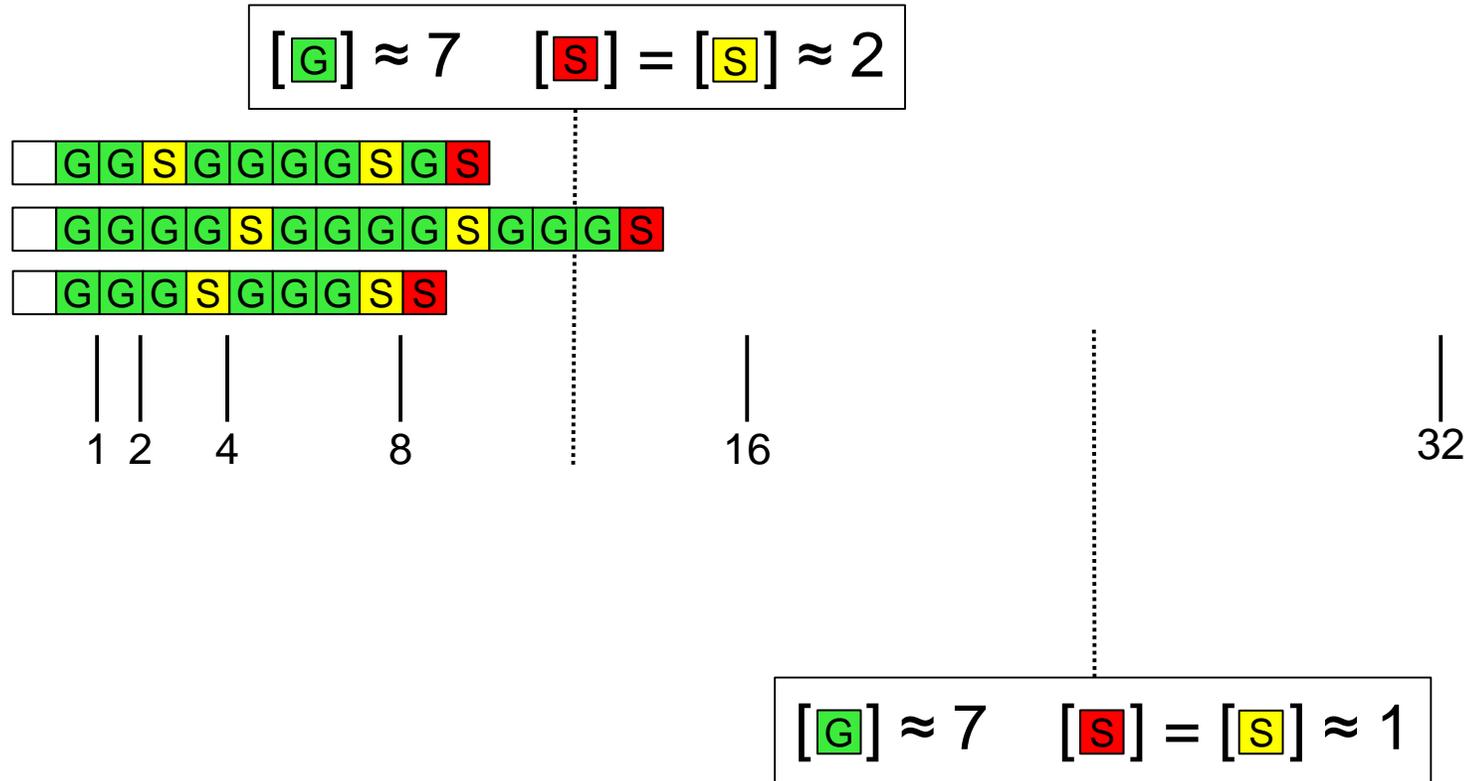
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$$[G] \approx 7 \quad [S] = [S] \approx 2$$

GGSGGGGS

GGGSGGGGS

GGGSGGS

1
2
4
8

16

32

GGGGGGGGSGGGGGGGSGGGGGGGGGGS

GGGGGGGS

GGGGGS

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GGSGGGGSRS

GGGGS SGGGG SGGGS

GGGS SGGGS S

1 2 4 8

16

32

GGGGGGGG SGGGGGG SGGGGGGGGGS

GGGGGGGS SGGGGGGGGGG SGGGGGGGS

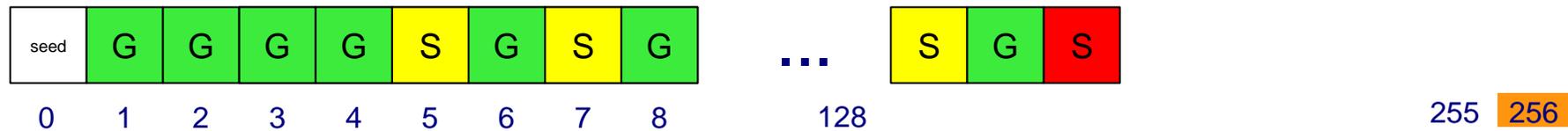
GGGGGG SGGGGGGGGGG SGGGGGS

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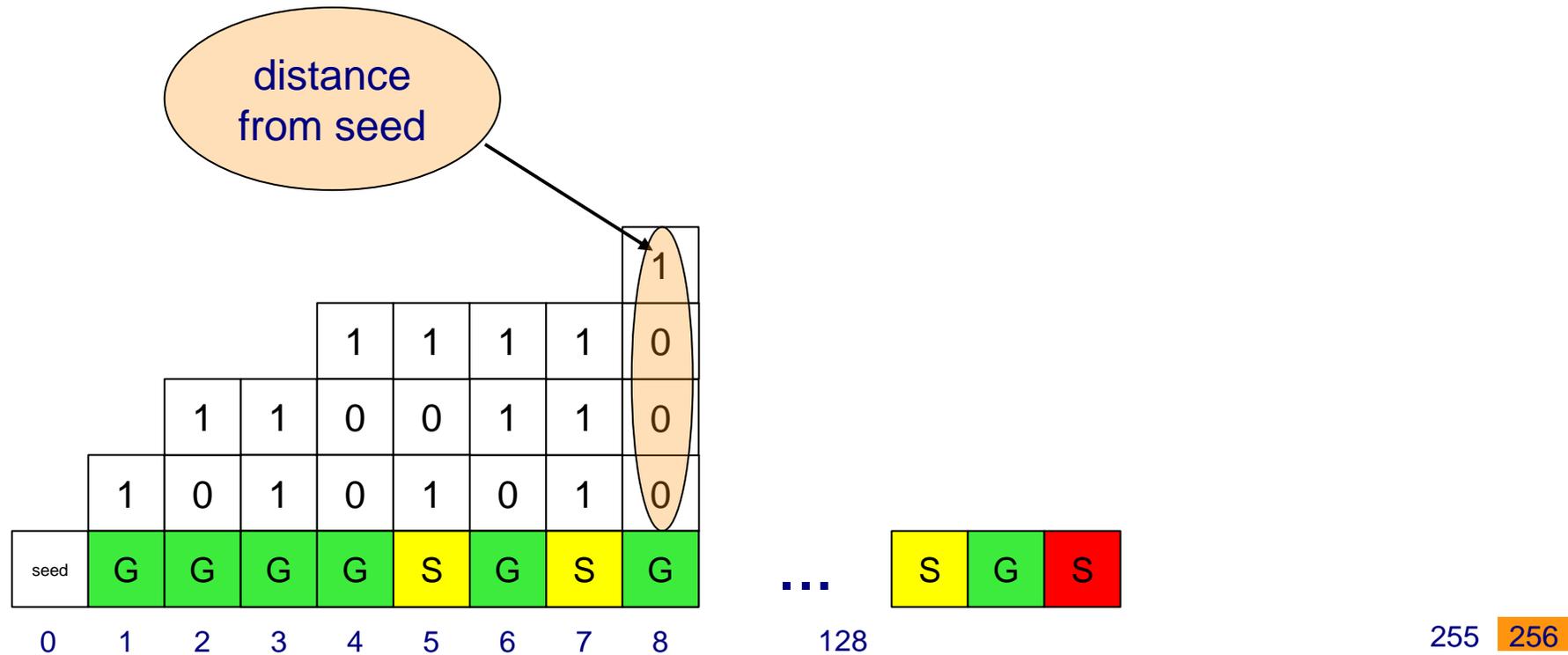
i.e., we can't target a precise length L , but we can target precisely the number of bits $\lceil \log L \rceil$ in L 's binary expansion.

Programming polymer length 2^k precisely

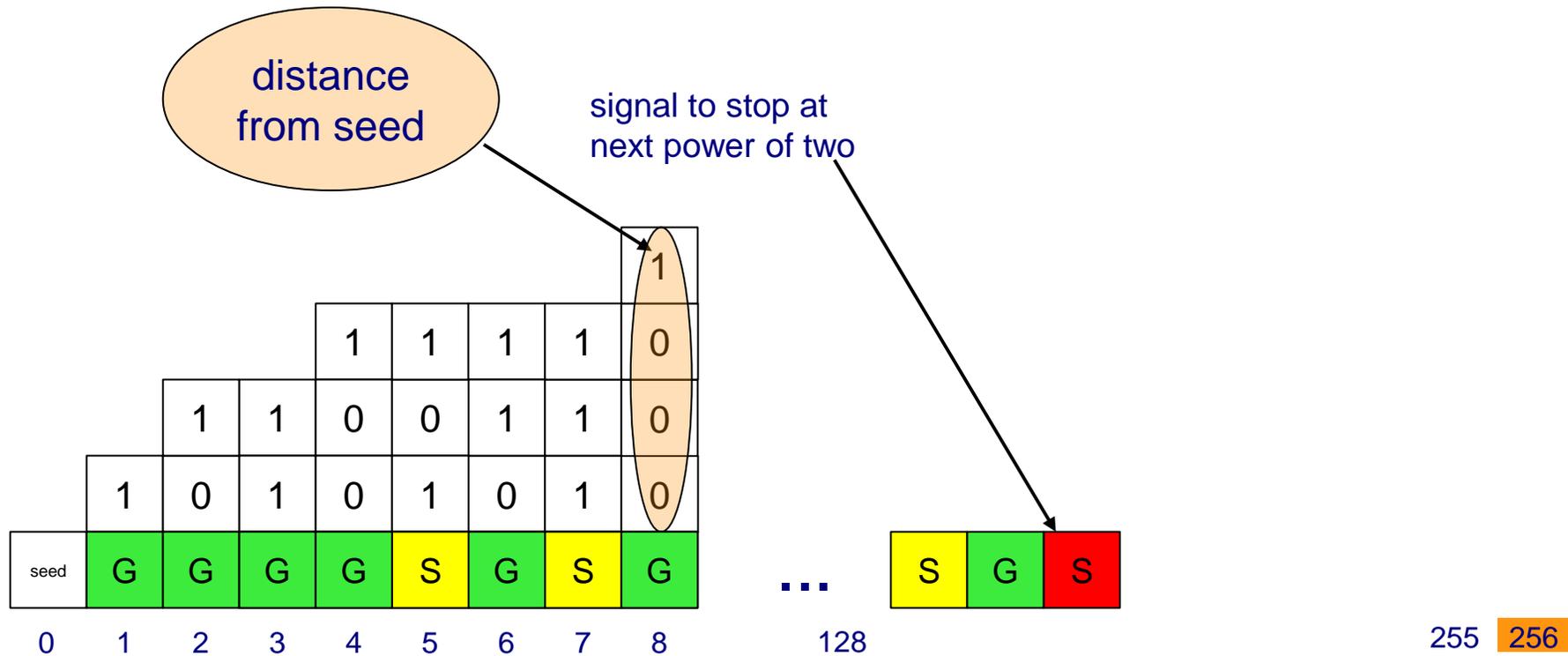
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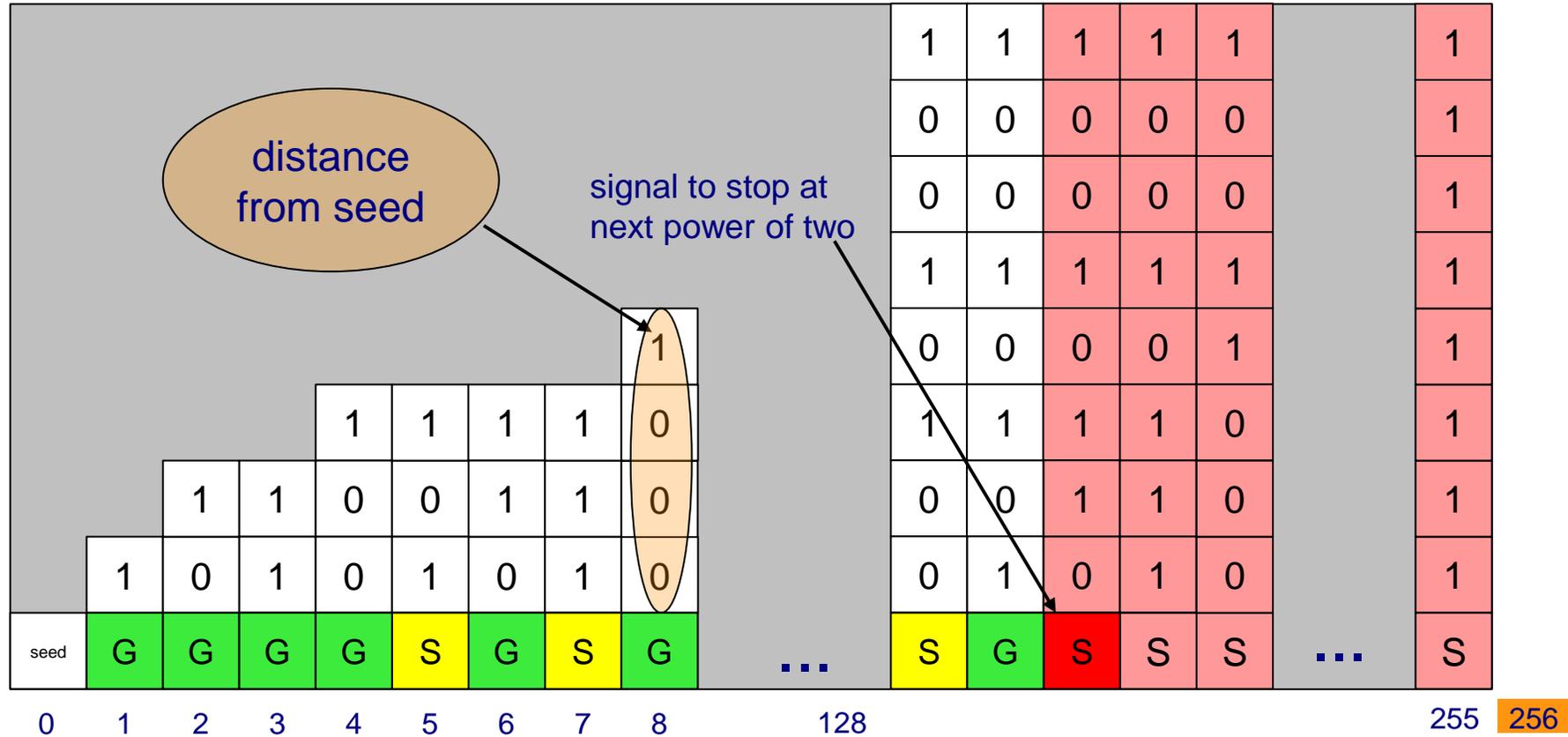
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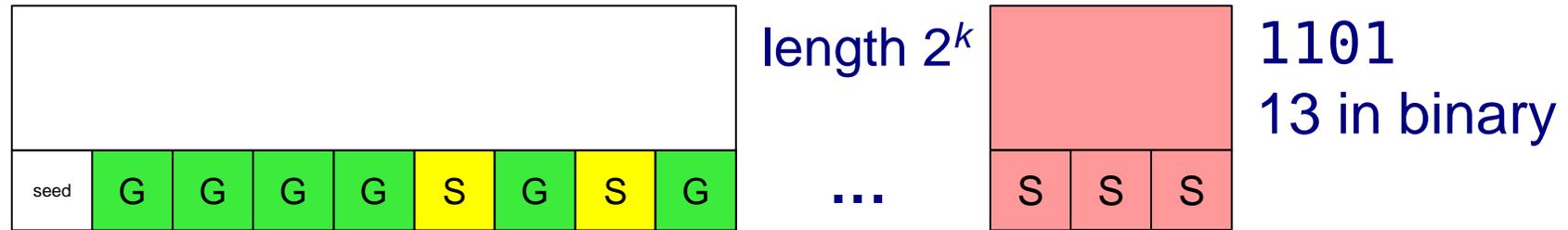


Programming a binary string

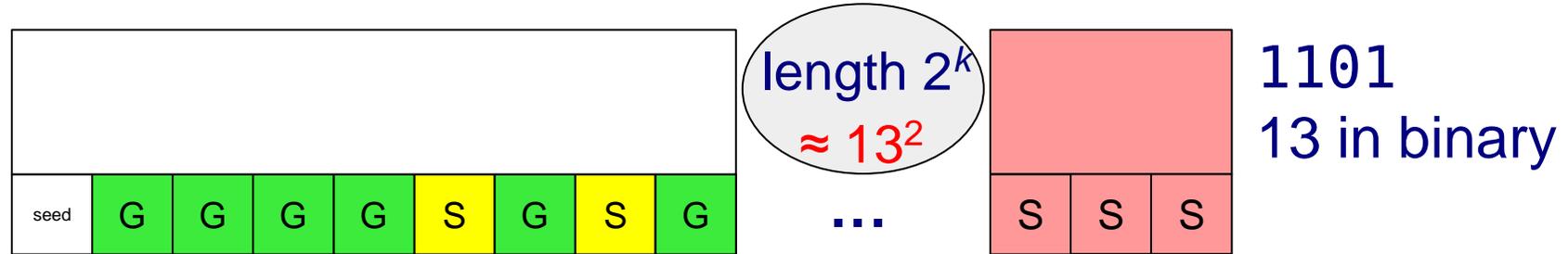
1101

13 in binary

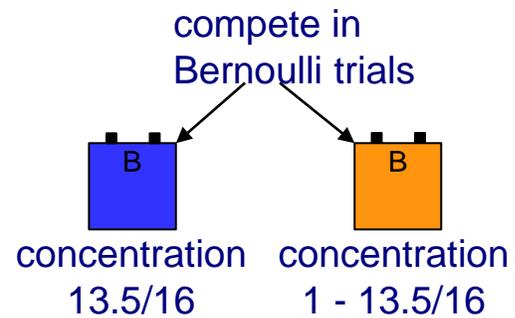
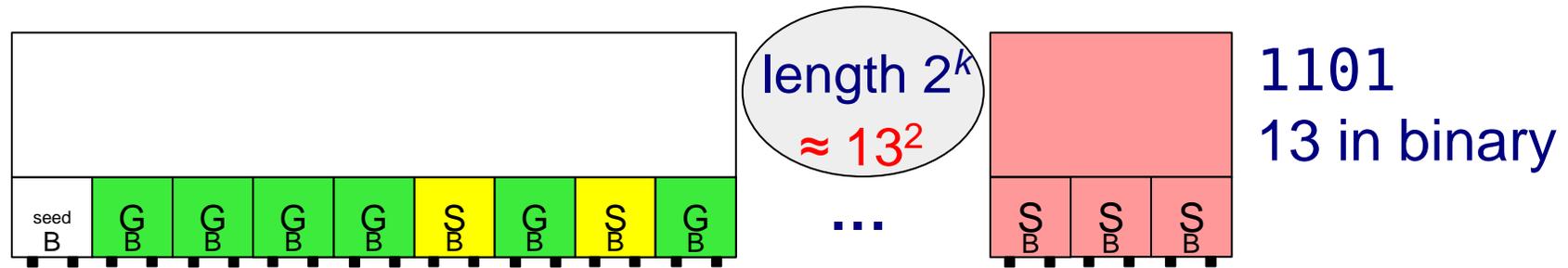
Programming a binary string



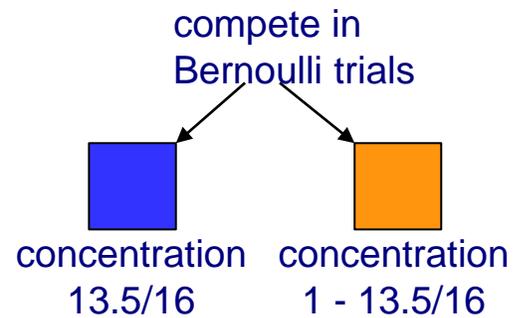
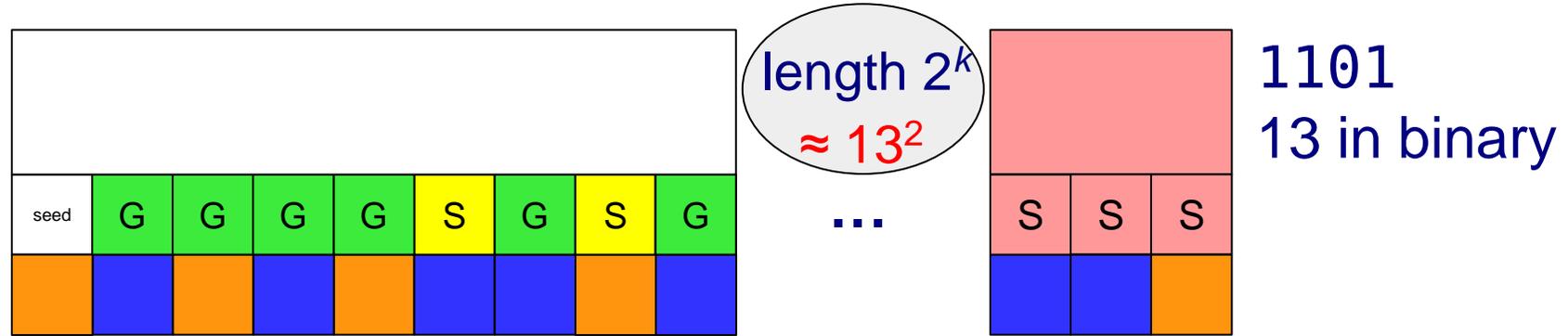
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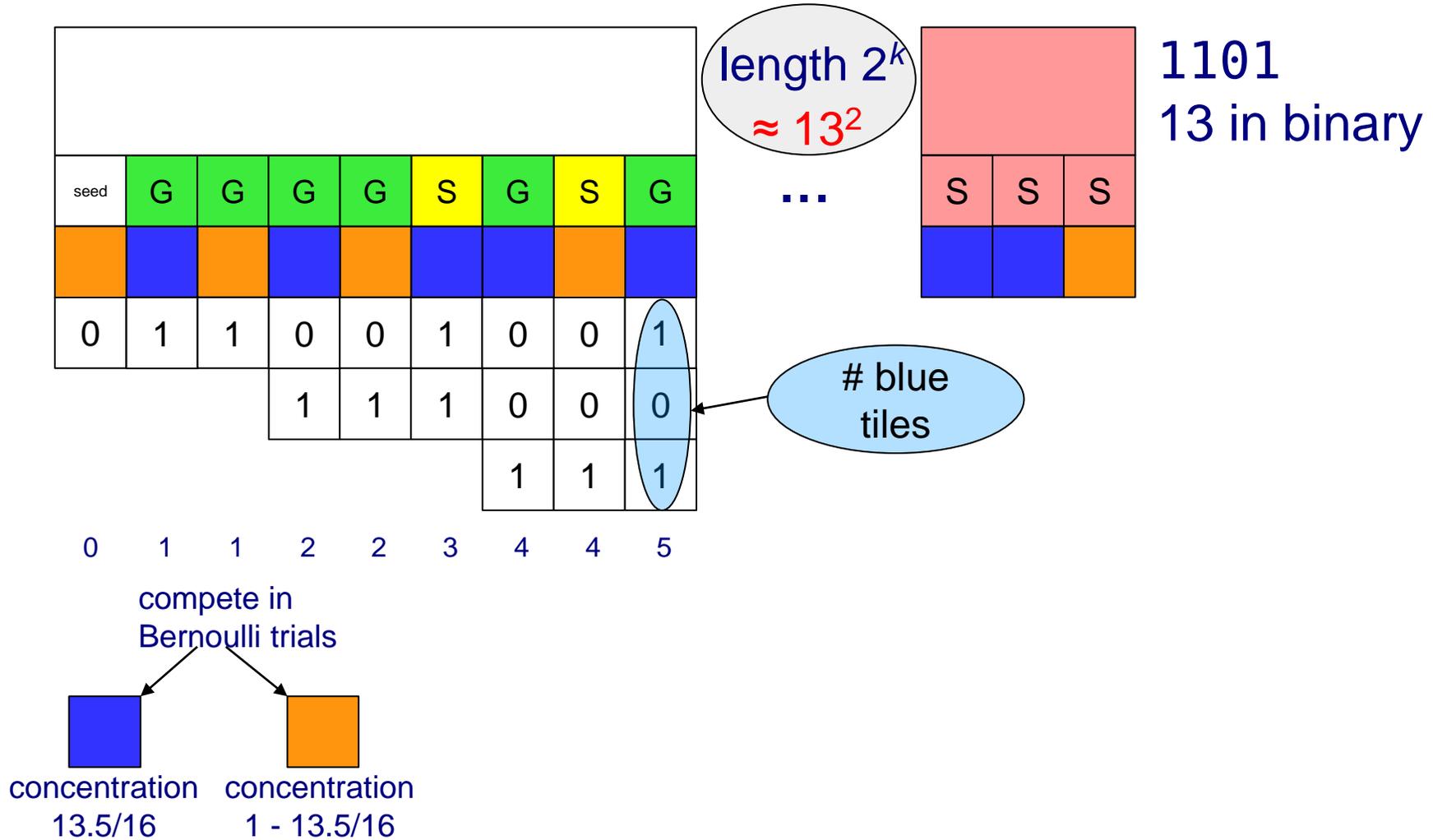
Programming a binary string



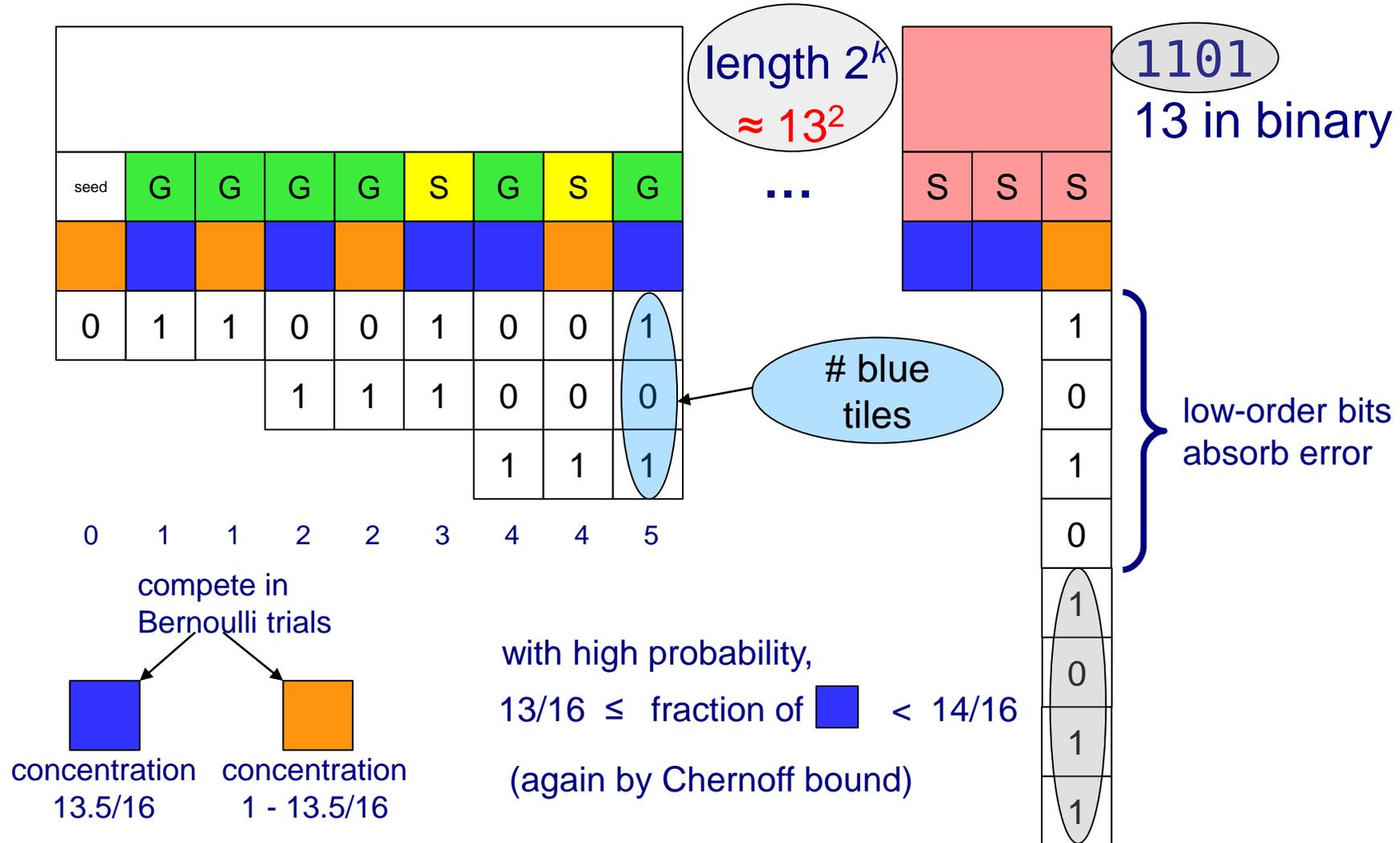
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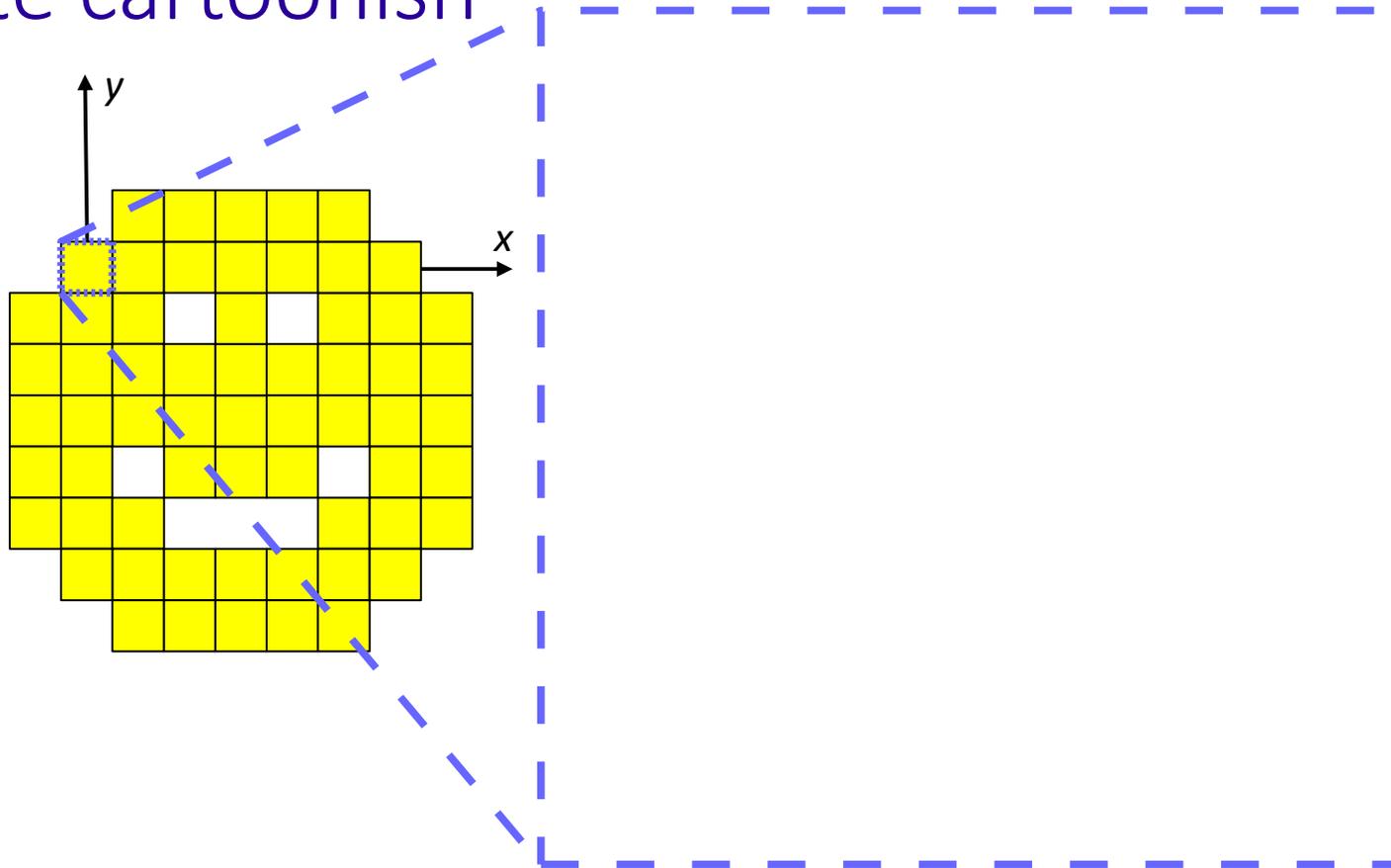
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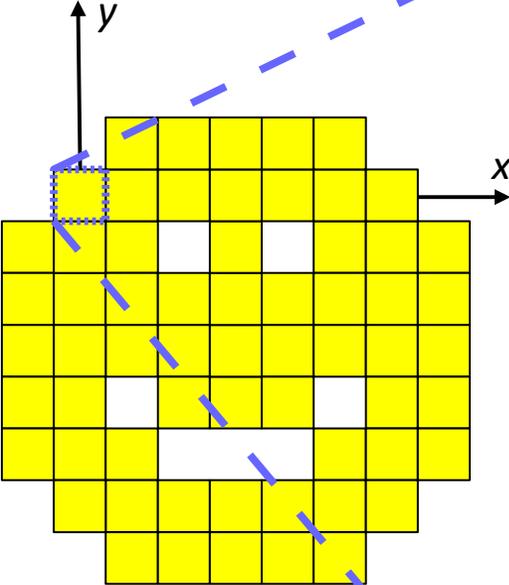
Programming a shape
(inaccurate cartoonish
overview)



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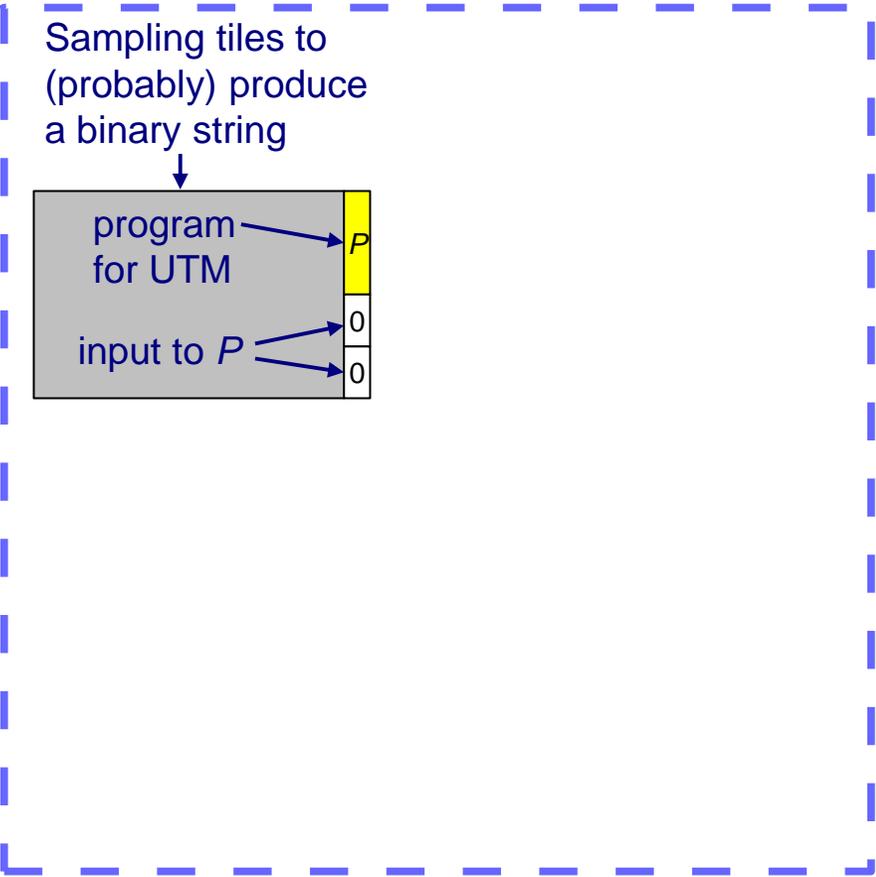
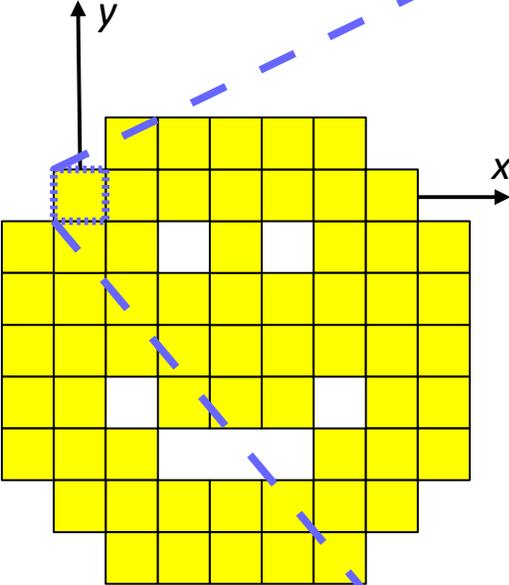
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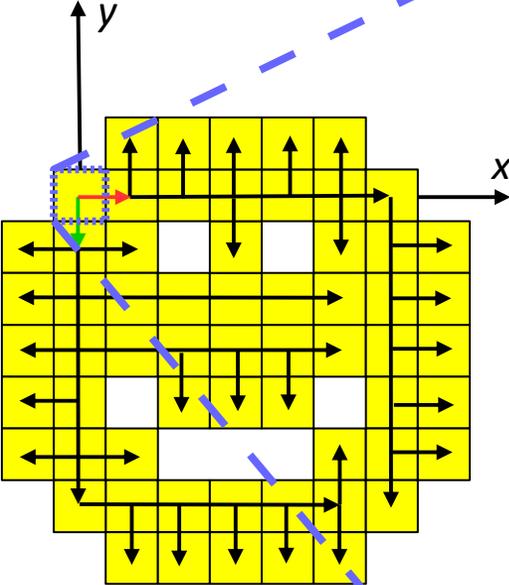
Sampling tiles to
(probably) produce
a binary string

	0
	1
	0
	1
	1
	0
	1
	1

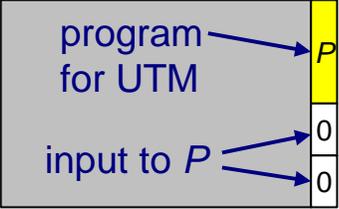
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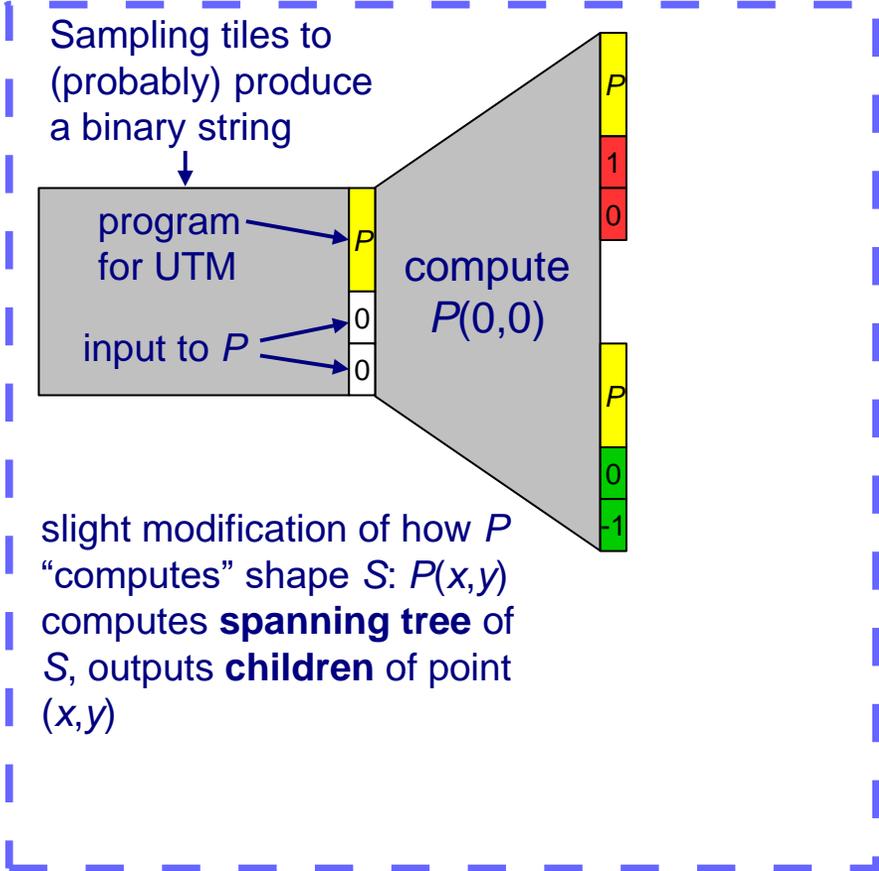
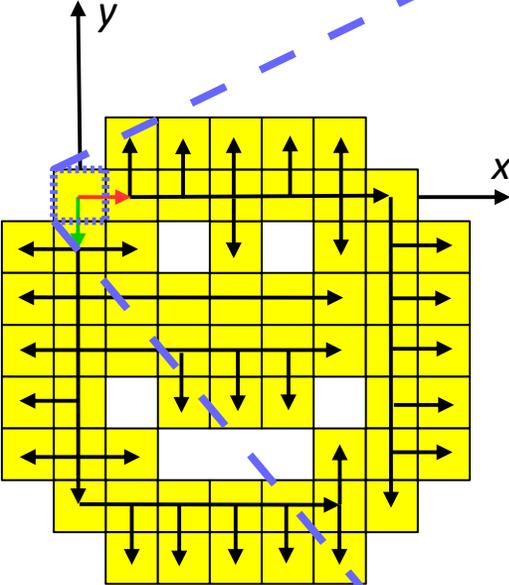


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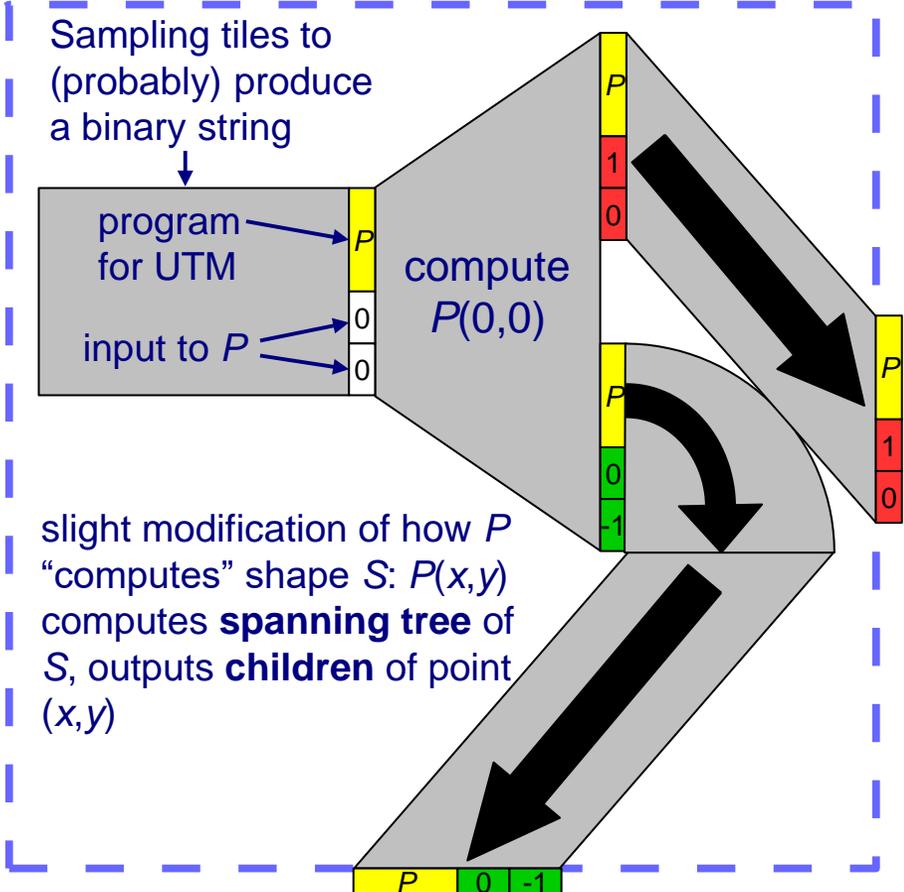
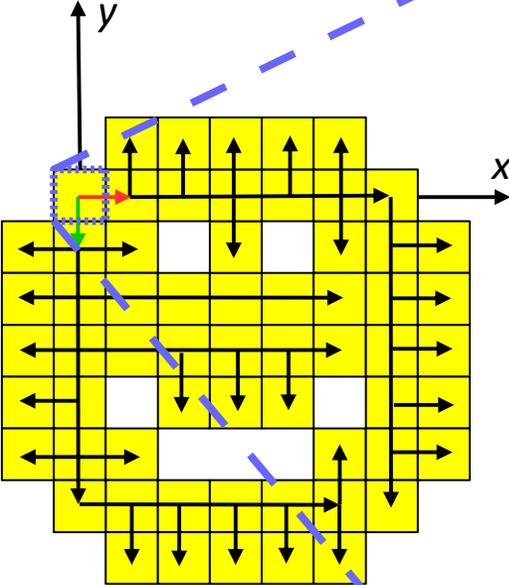


slight modification of how P
“computes” shape S : $P(x,y)$
computes **spanning tree** of
 S , outputs **children** of point
 (x,y)

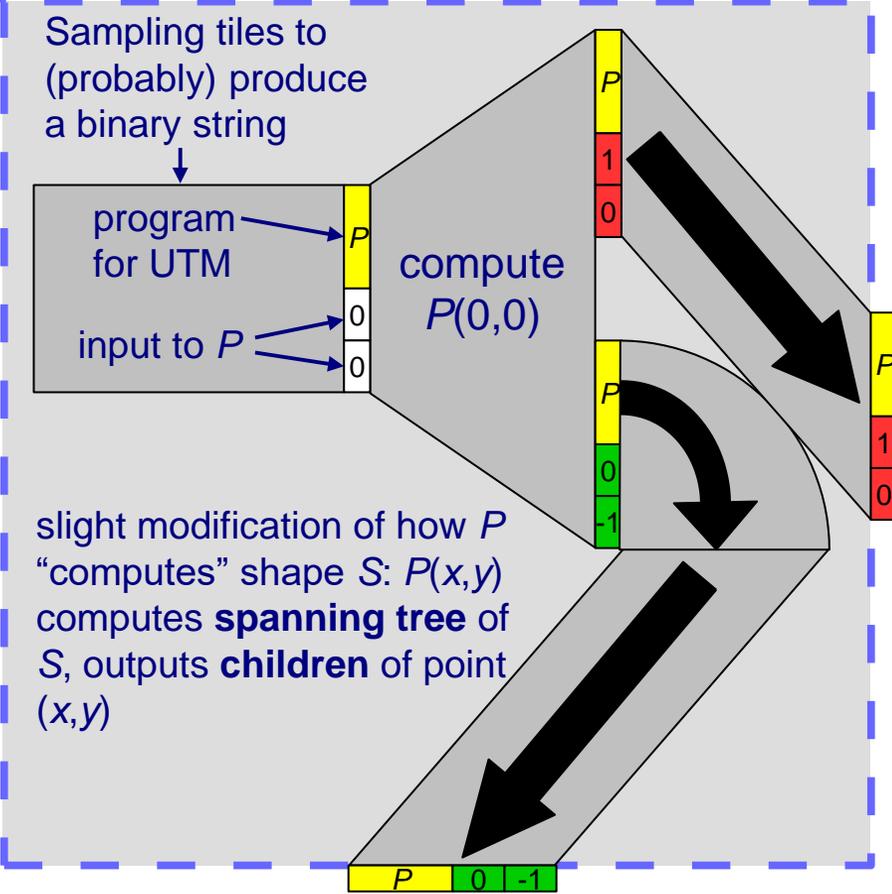
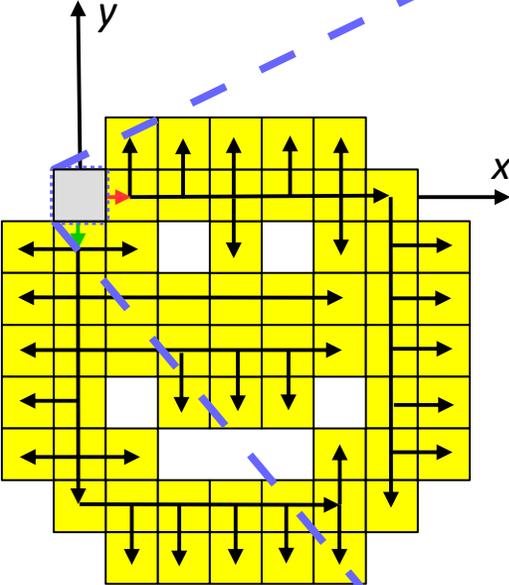
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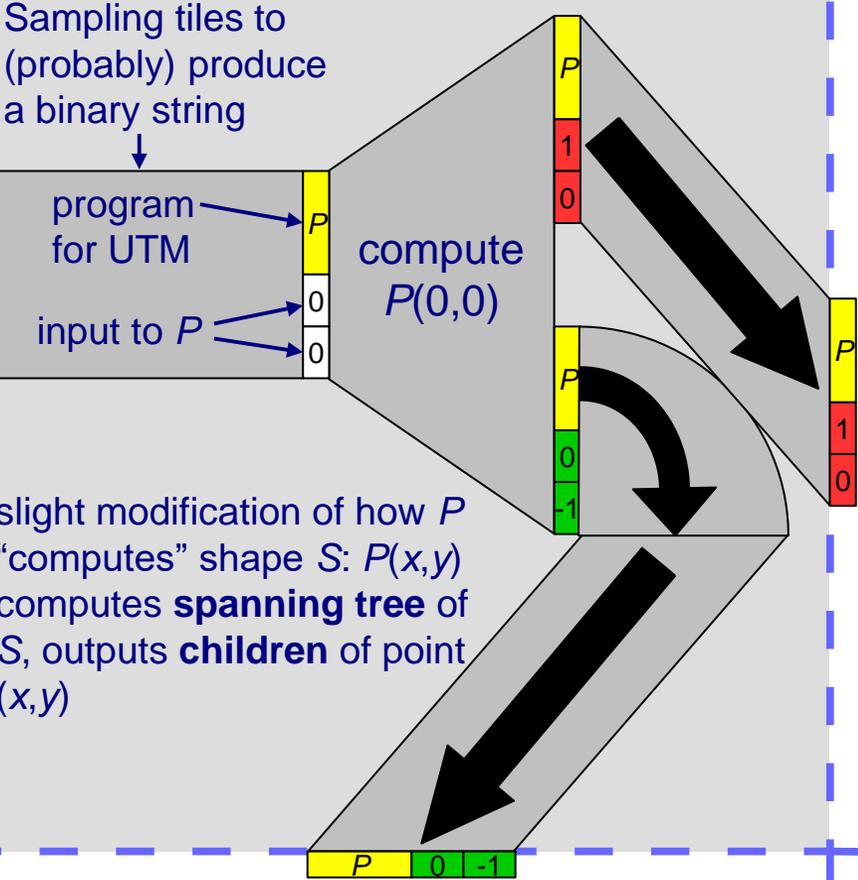
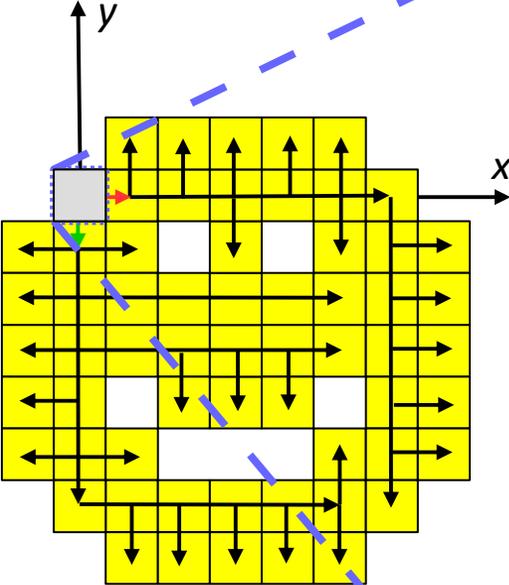
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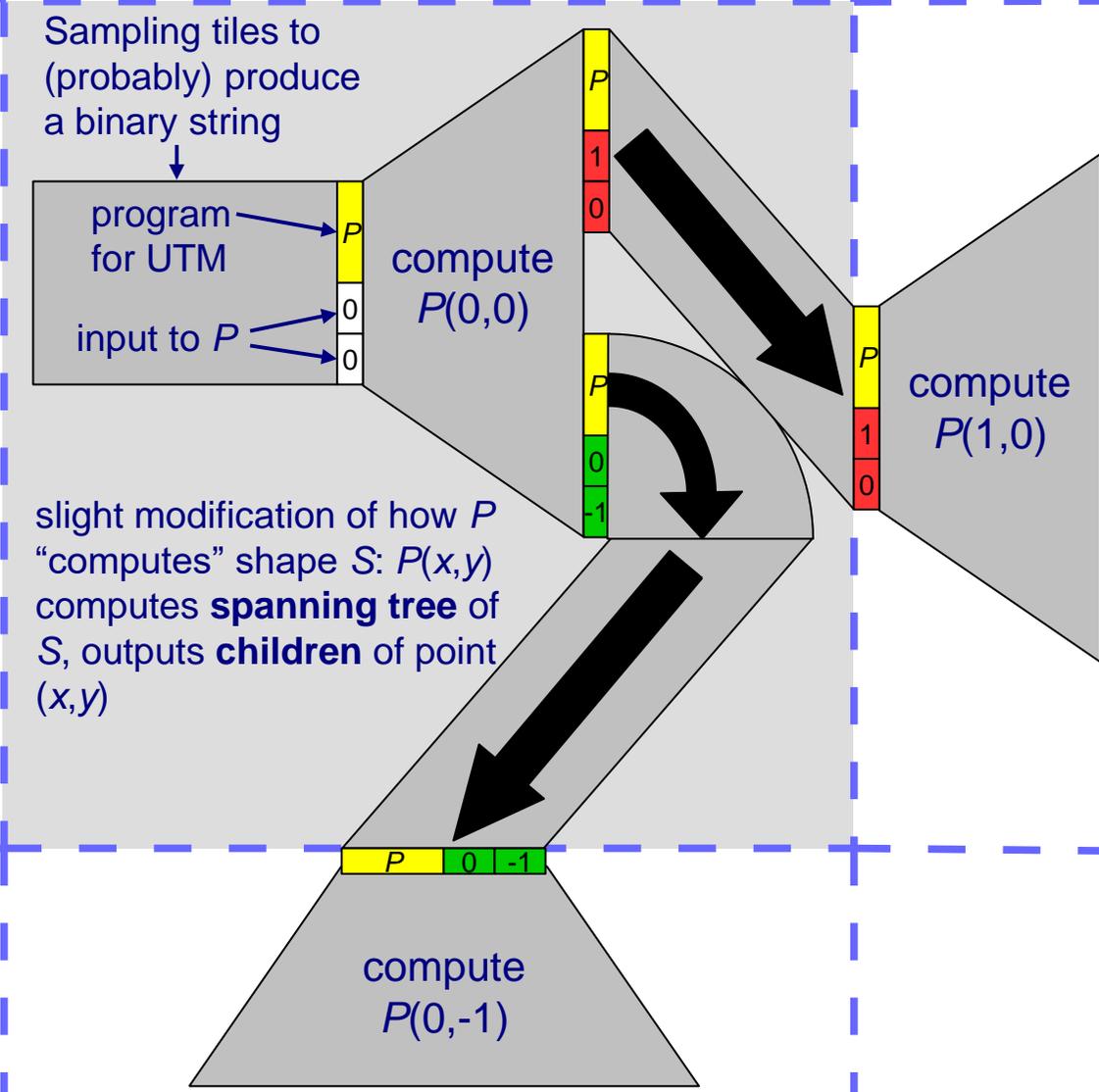
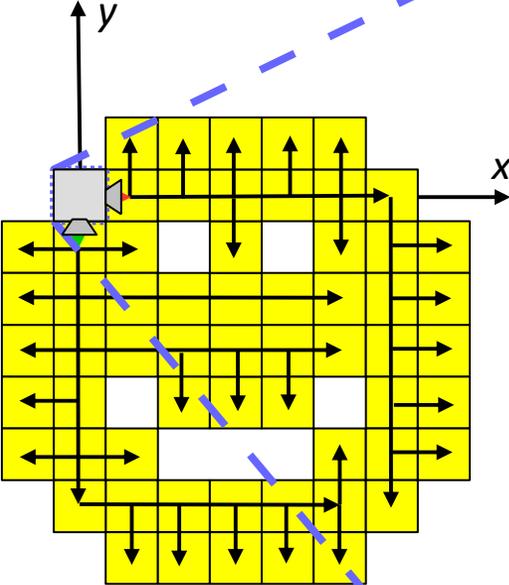
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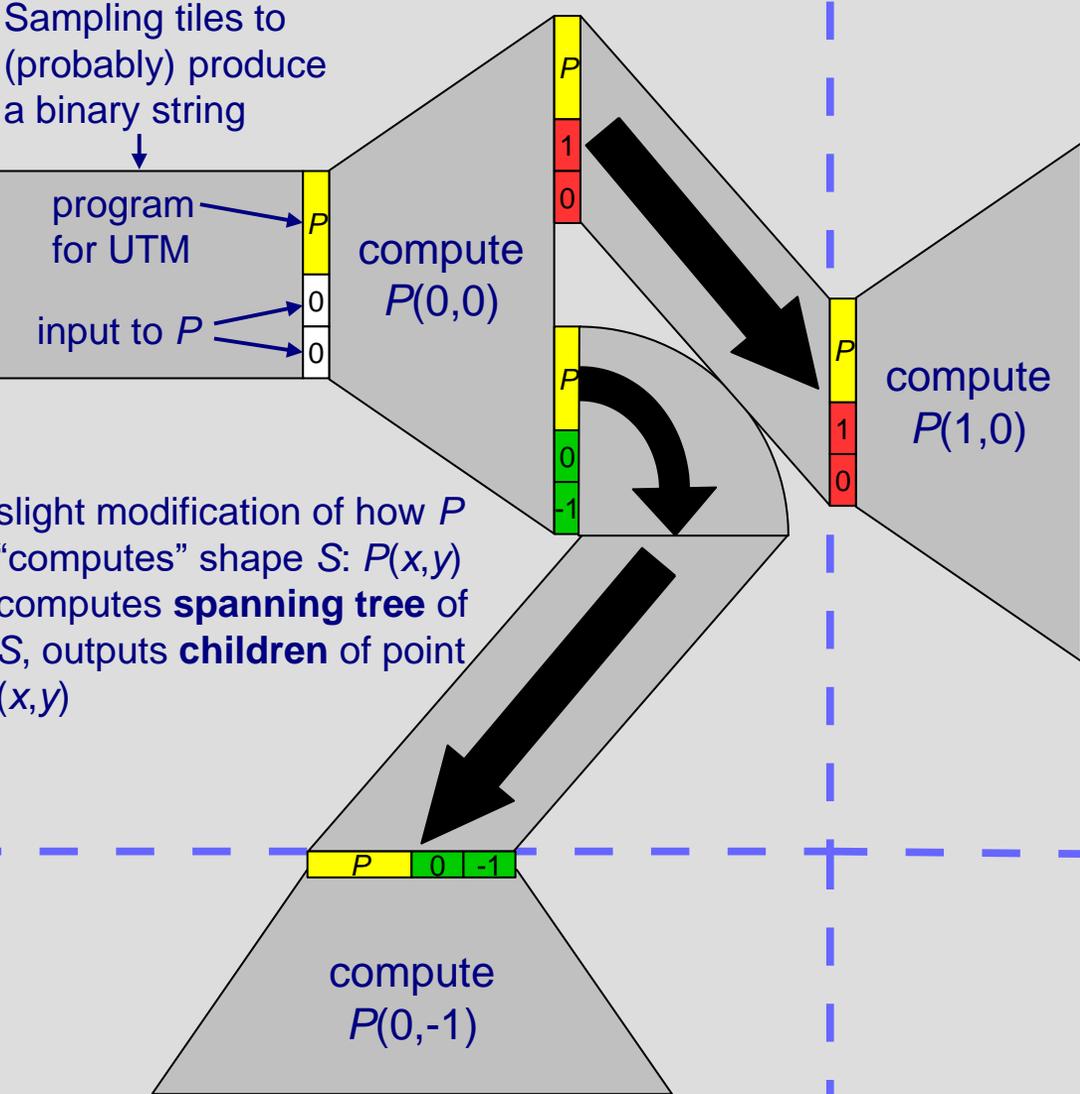
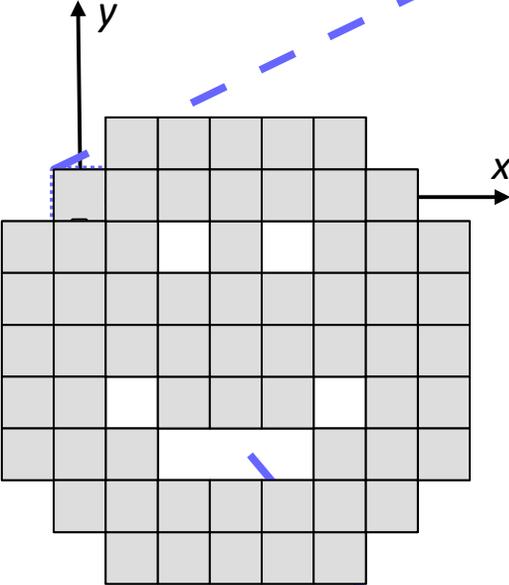
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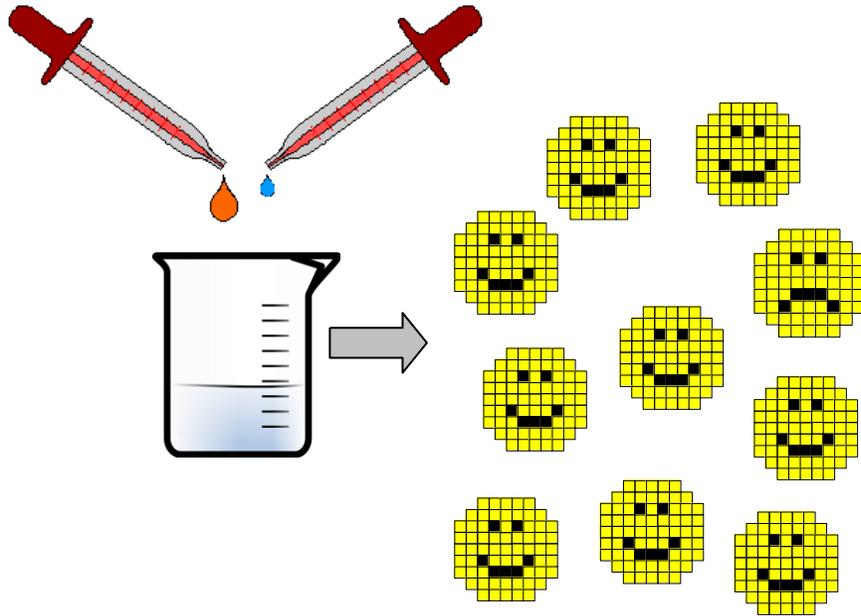
Universal self-assembling molecules

A **fixed** set of tile types can assemble *any* finite (scaled) shape (with high probability) by mixing them in the right concentrations.

[Doty, *Randomized self-assembly for exact shapes*, SICOMP 2010, FOCS 2009]

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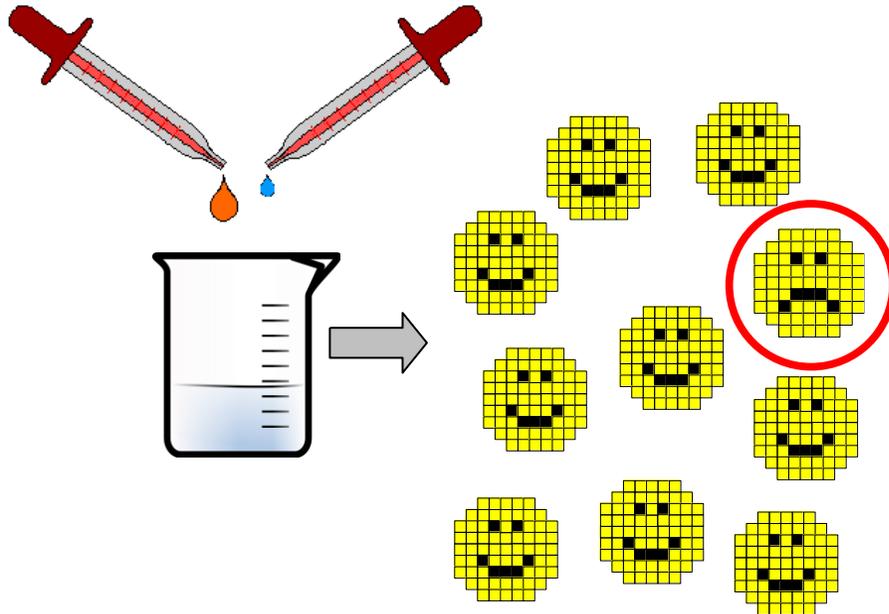
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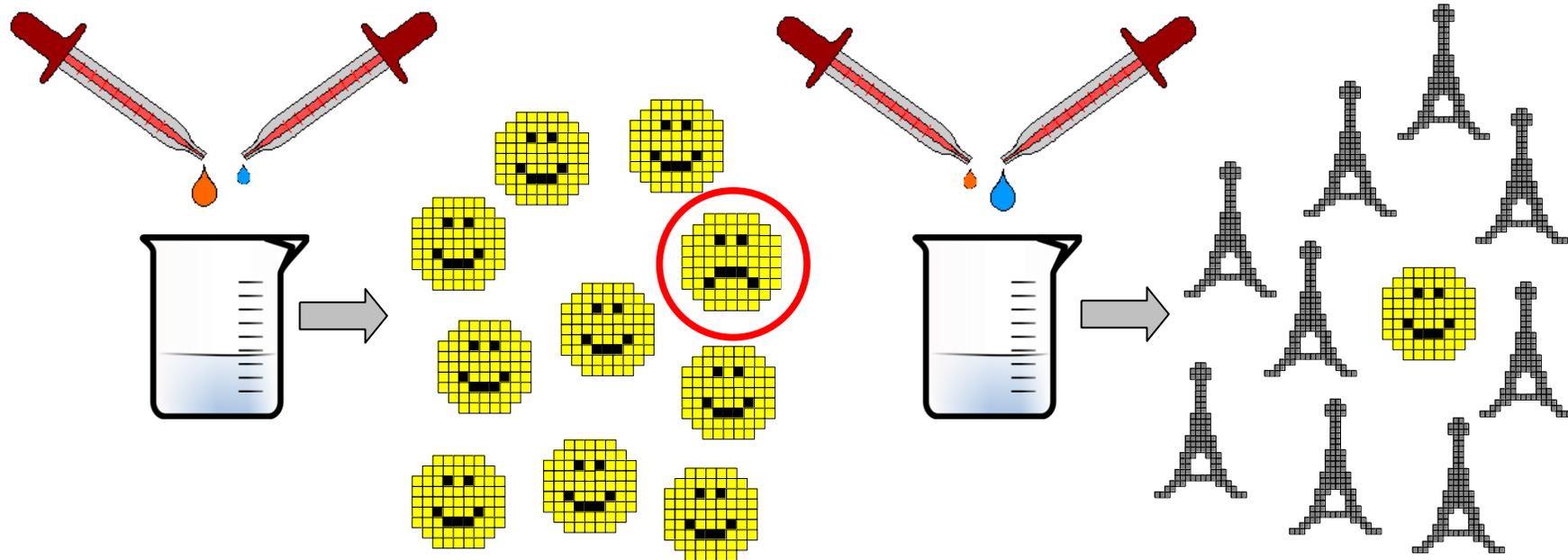
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Other plausible modifications of aTAM model that can reduce tile complexity

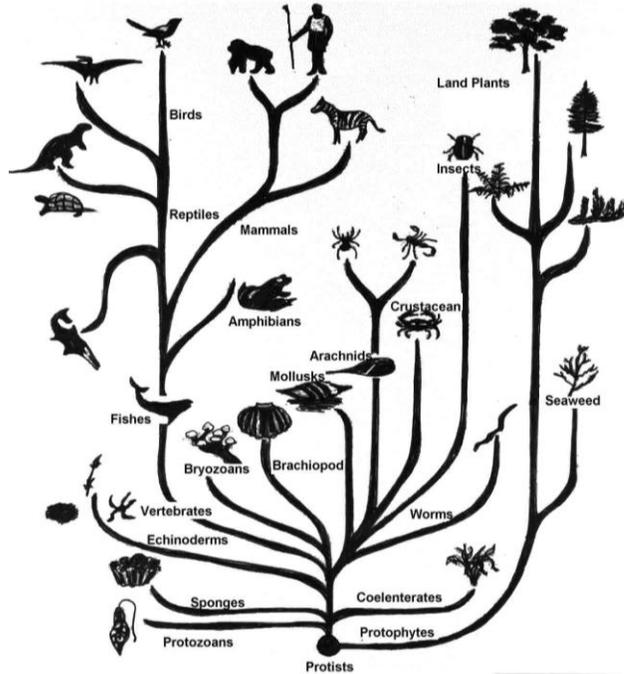
- staged self-assembly:
 - <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11047-008-9073-0>
- temperature programming:
 - <https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.5555/1109557.1109620>

The power of nondeterminism in self-assembly

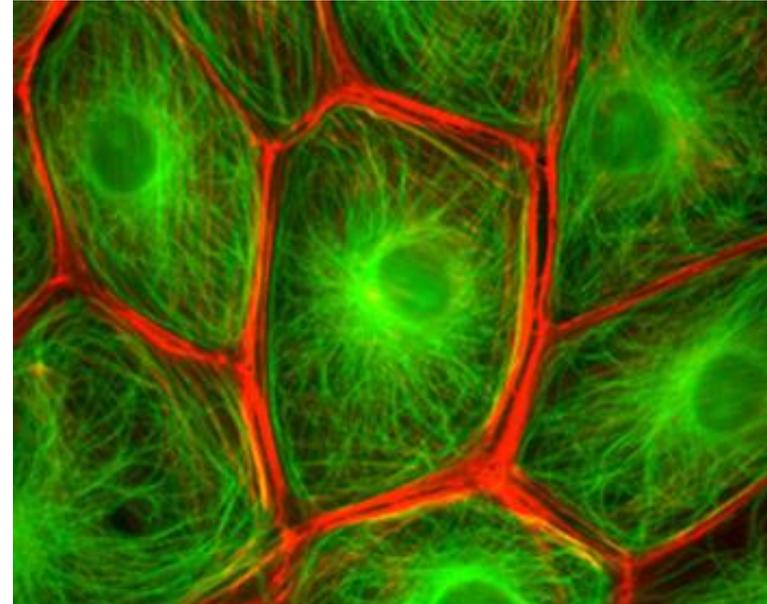
Can nondeterminism help to
self-assemble shapes?

Nondeterminism in Biology

Genetic mutation



Cytoskeleton formation



Nondeterminism can allow complex structures to be created from a compact encoding.

Nondeterminism in Computer Science

Algorithm types:



Power

Nondeterminism in Computer Science

Algorithm types:

Deterministic: entire computation uniquely determined by input

Power



Nondeterminism in Computer Science

Algorithm types:

Randomized:
flips coins; realistic

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Nondeterminism in Computer Science

Algorithm types:

Nondeterministic:
flips coins; magical

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Nondeterminism in Computer Science

Algorithm types:

Nondeterministic:
flips coins; magical

Randomized:
flips coins; realistic

Trivially nondeterministic
(“pseudodeterministic”):
flips coins, but *final output*
independent of flip results

Deterministic: entire
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determined by input

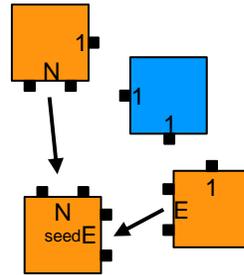
Power



Nondeterminism in Self-Assembly

Perhaps:

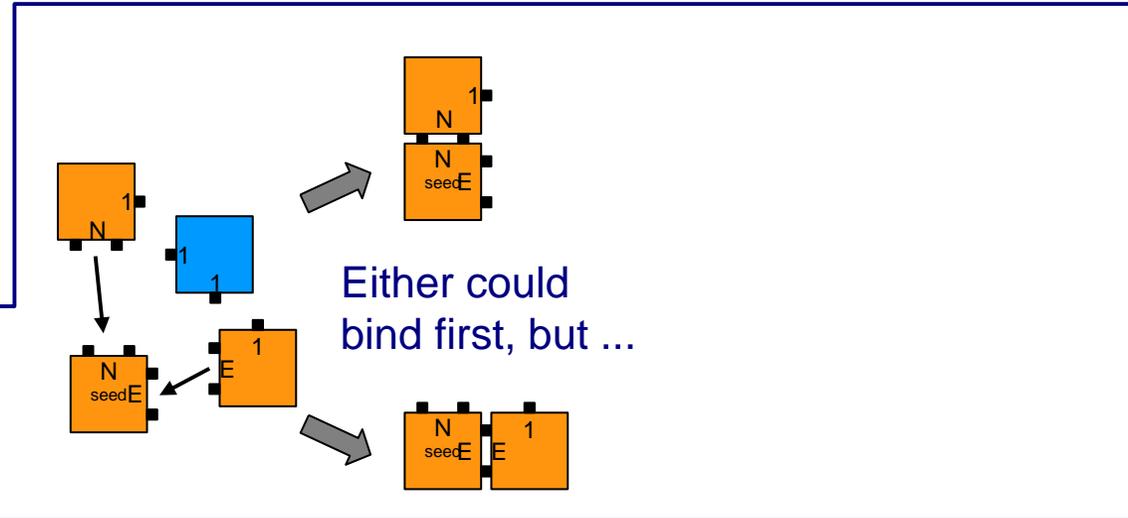
≥ 2 potential
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Nondeterminism in Self-Assembly

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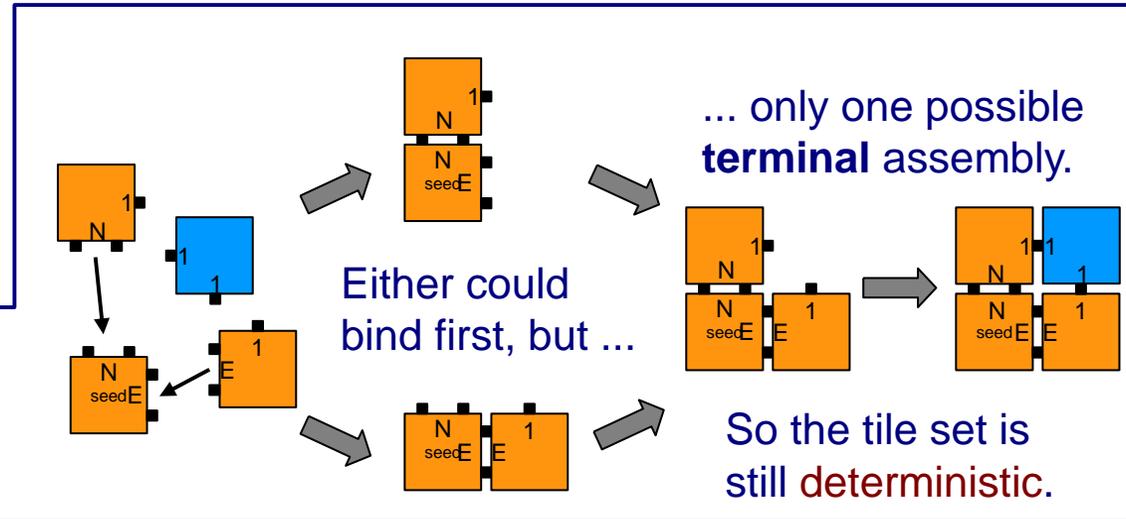
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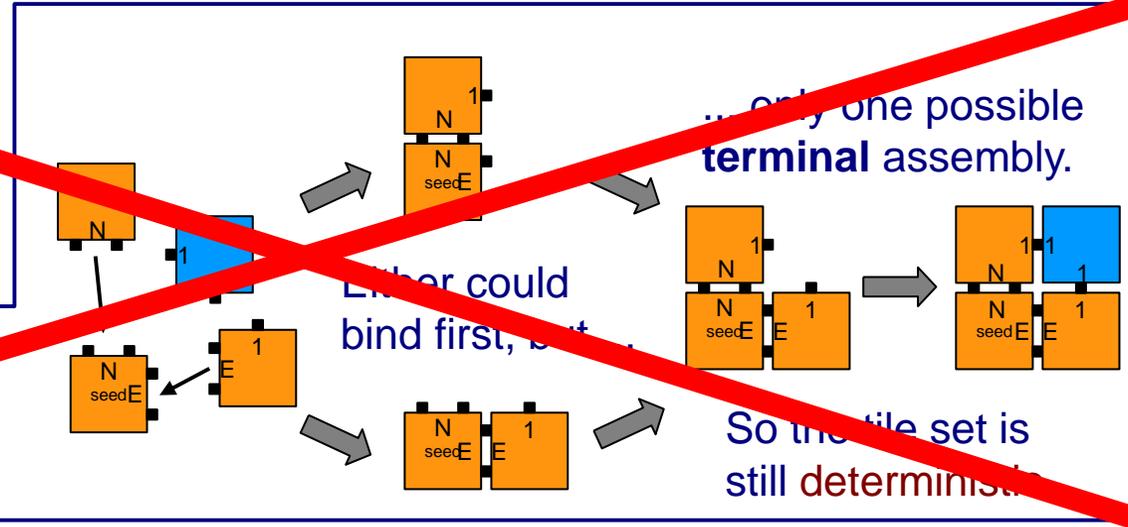
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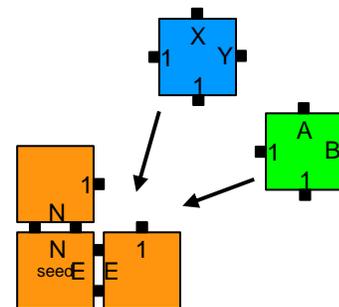
Perhaps:

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More meaningful:

at a *single* binding site, ≥ 2 tile types attachable

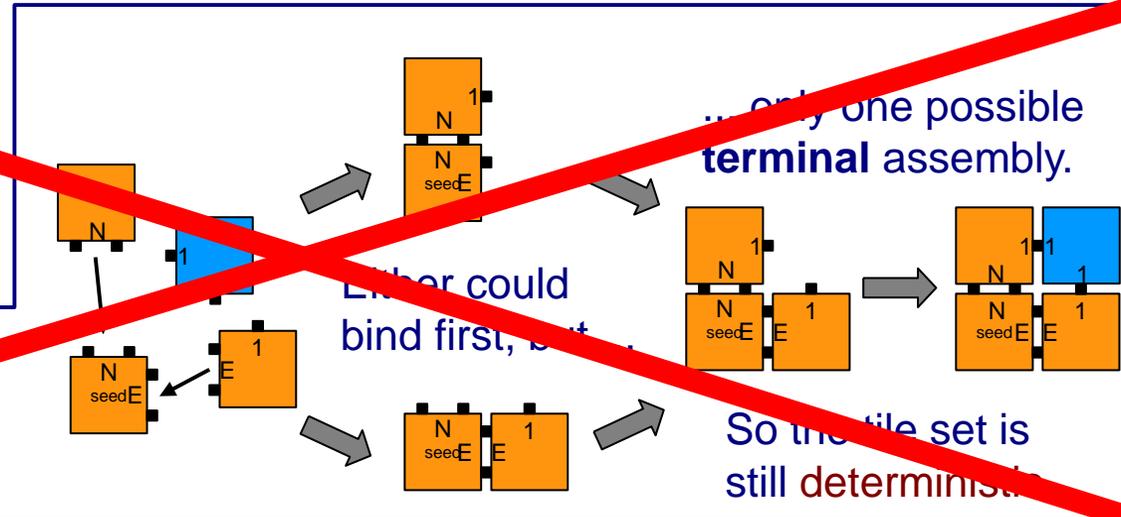


If tile types compete ...

Nondeterminism in Self-Assembly

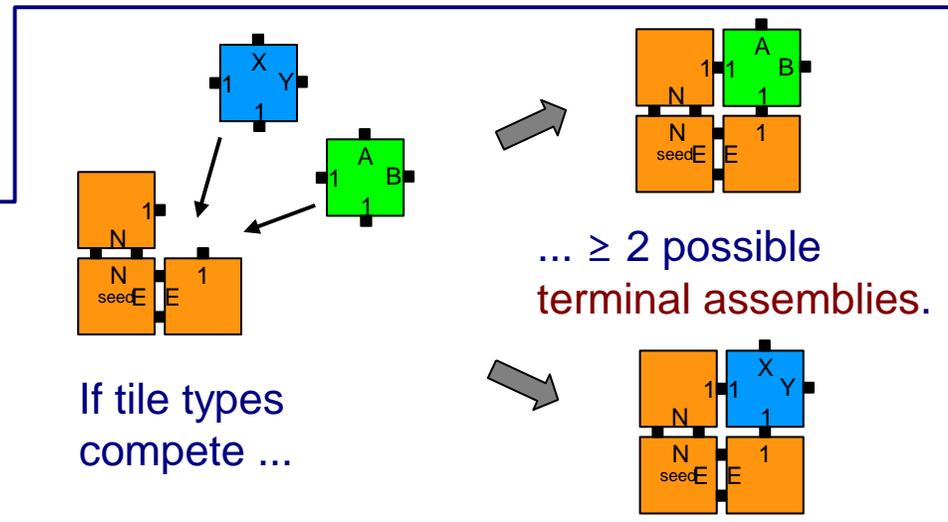
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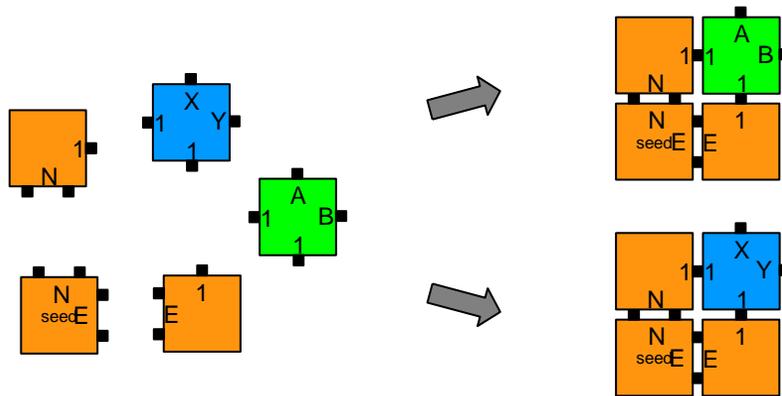


Nondeterminism in Self-Assembly

- A tile set is **deterministic** if it has only one terminal **assembly** (map of tile types to points).

Nondeterminism in Self-Assembly

- A tile set is **deterministic** if it has only one terminal **assembly** (map of tile types to points).
- This tile set has multiple terminal assemblies, *but* they all have the same **shape**.



- The tile set **self-assembles** a 2 x 2 square.

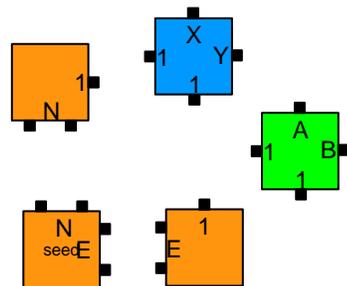
Power of Nondeterminism

Question: Let S be a finite shape self-assembled by some nondeterministic tile set. Does some deterministic tile set also self-assemble S ?

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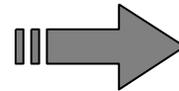
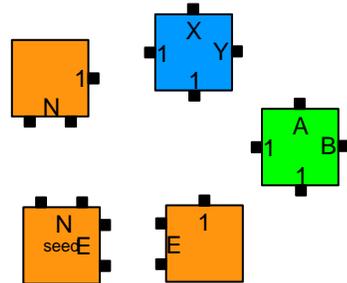
In this example, we can convert this nondeterministic tile set that self-assembles a 2 x 2 square ...



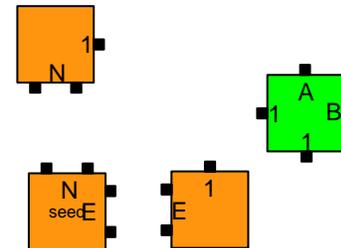
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... to this deterministic tile set that self-assembles the same shape.



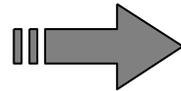
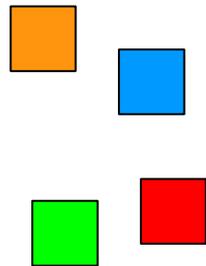
In general???

Power of Nondeterminism

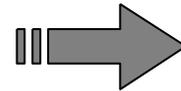
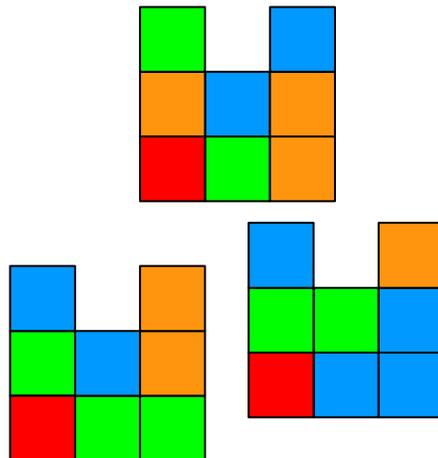
Question: Let S be a finite shape self-assembled by some nondeterministic tile set. Does some deterministic tile set also self-assemble S ?

Answer: Trivially yes.

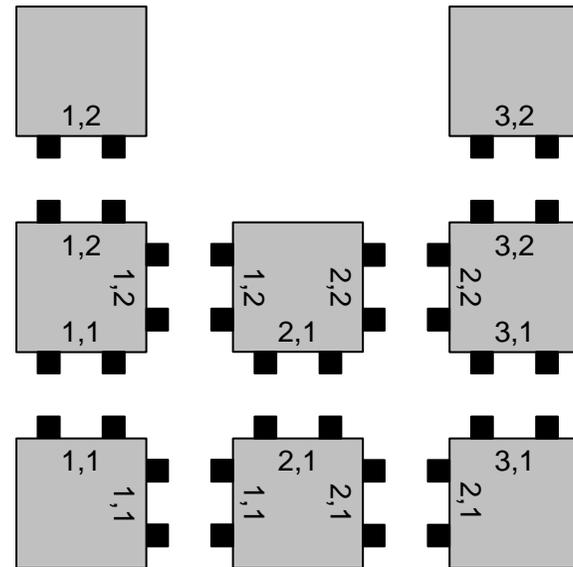
nondeterministic
tile set



shape S



deterministic tile set
(hard-coding S)



Power of Nondeterminism

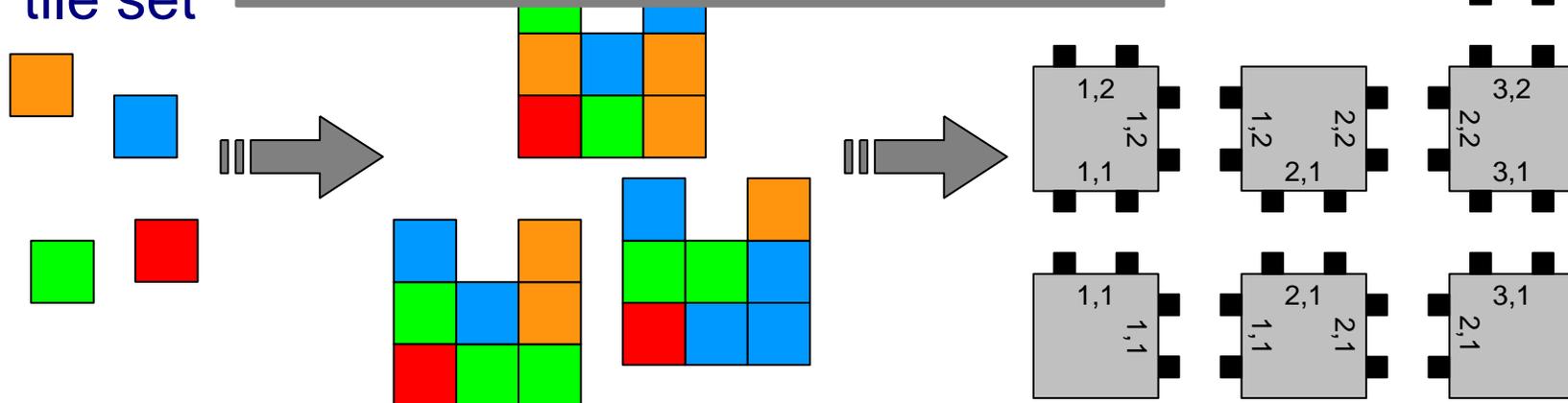
Question: Let S be a finite shape self-assembled by some nondeterministic tile set. Does some deterministic tile set also self-assemble S ?

Answer: T

Is there **some** way that nondeterminism helps to self-assemble shapes?

deterministic tile set (encoding S)

nondeterministic tile set



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Remainder of talk



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Optimization Problems

MINTILESET

Given: finite shape S

Find: size of smallest tile system that self-assembles S

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Given: finite shape S

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Find: size of smallest **deterministic** tile system that self-assembles S

Optimization Problems

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False statement: **Nondeterminism does not affect tile complexity**:

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if true, would imply $\text{MINDETTILESET} = \text{MINTILESET}$

Main Result

- We show: **MINTILESET** is **NP^{NP}**-complete.
a.k.a., Σ_2^P
- **MINDETTILESET** is **NP**-complete. (Adleman, Cheng, Goel, Huang, Kempe, Moisset de Espanés, Rothmund, *STOC* 2002)
- **NP** \neq **NP^{NP}** \Rightarrow **MINTILESET** \neq **MINDETTILESET**

Nondeterminism in Algorithms and Self-Assembly

Algorithm that flips
coins but always
produces same output

- coin flips **useless**

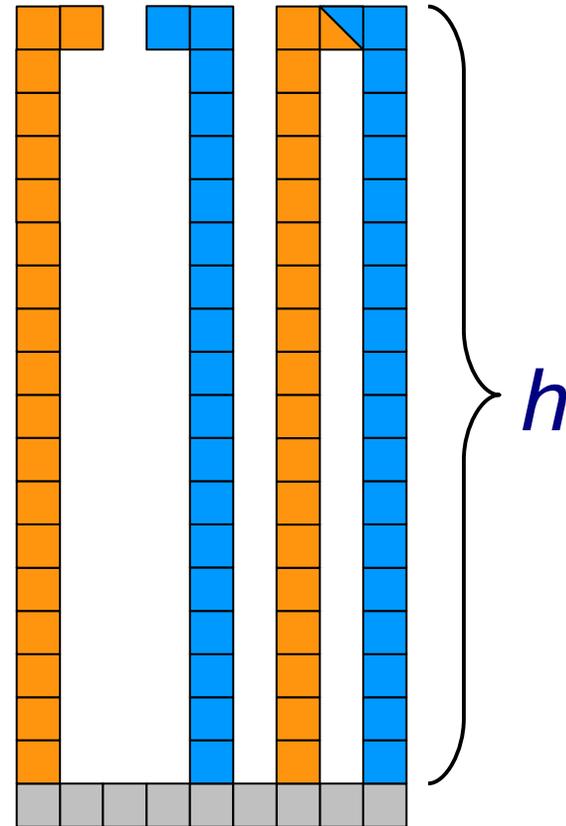
Tile set that flips
coins but always
produces same shape

- coin flips **useful**

But ... **finding** smallest tile
set is harder if it flips coins.

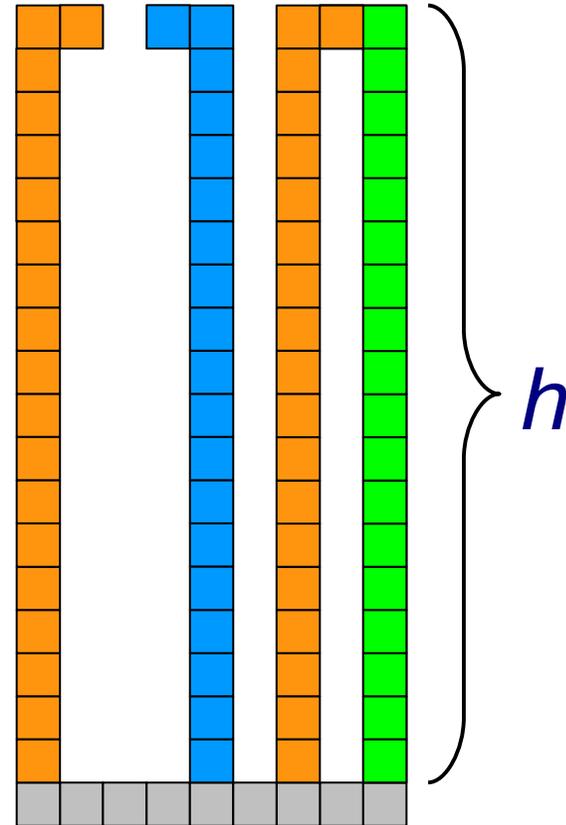
A Finite Shape for which Nondeterminism Affects Tile Complexity

- Smallest tile set: $\approx 2h$ tile types



A Finite Shape for which Nondeterminism Affects Tile Complexity

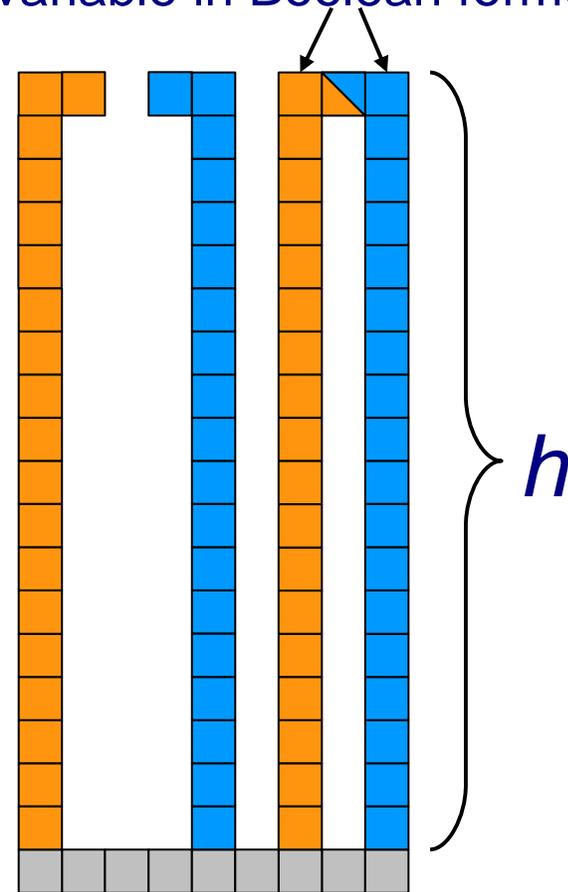
- Smallest tile set: $\approx 2h$ tile types
- Smallest *deterministic* tile set: $\approx 3h$ tile types



A Finite Shape for which Nondeterminism Affects Tile Complexity

in $\mathbf{NP}^{\mathbf{NP}}$ -hardness reduction, compete to assign bits to variable in Boolean formula

- Smallest tile set: $\approx 2h$ tile types
- Smallest *deterministic* tile set: $\approx 3h$ tile types



NP^{NP} -hardness Reduction

- NP^{NP} -complete problem (Stockmeyer, Wrathall 1976):
 $\exists \text{CNF-UNSAT}$
 - Given: CNF Boolean formula Φ with $k+n$ input bits
 $x=x_1 \dots x_k$ and $y=y_1 \dots y_n$

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 - Question: is $(\exists x)(\forall y)\neg\Phi(x,y)$ true?
- Given Φ , construct shape S and integer c such that $(\exists x)(\forall y)\neg\Phi(x,y)$ holds if and only if some tile set of size at most c self-assembles S .

NP^{NP} -hardness Reduction

Main idea (due to Adleman et al. *STOC* 2002):

NP^{NP} -hardness Reduction

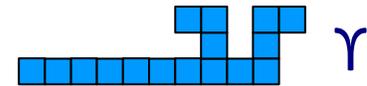
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- Given a tree shape (no simple cycles), it is possible to compute its minimum tile set in polynomial time.

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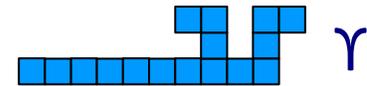
- Given a tree shape (no simple cycles), it is possible to compute its minimum tile set in polynomial time.
- Create a tree shape Υ that “encodes” Φ .



NP^{NP} -hardness Reduction

Main idea (due to Adleman et al. *STOC* 2002):

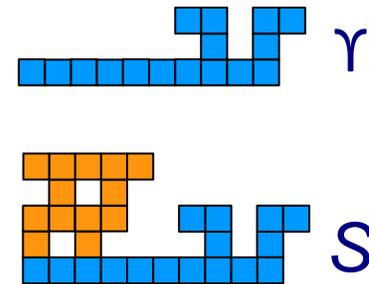
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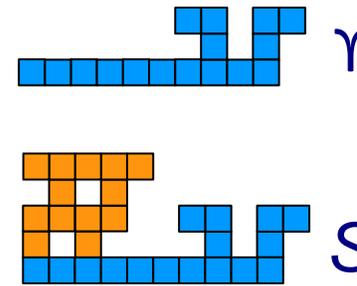
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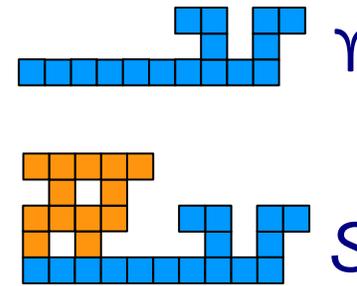
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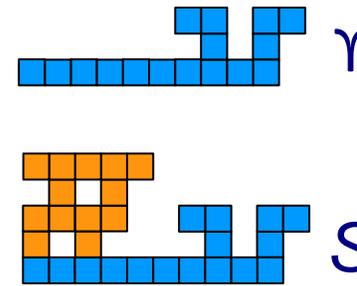
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 - Otherwise, tiles from T cannot be altered to assemble S .
 - “Since $\Upsilon \subseteq S$,” every tile set that assembles S contains T , so if tiles from T cannot be altered to assemble S then additional tiles are needed; i.e., S requires more than $c = |T|$ tile types.



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$w = 0011$

$$\Phi = (w_1 \vee w_3) \wedge (w_1 \vee w_2 \vee w_4) \wedge (\neg w_1 \vee w_2)$$

C_3	SF	SF	ST	ST
C_2	UF	UF	UT	ST
C_1	UF	UF	ST	ST
	w_1	w_2	w_3	w_4

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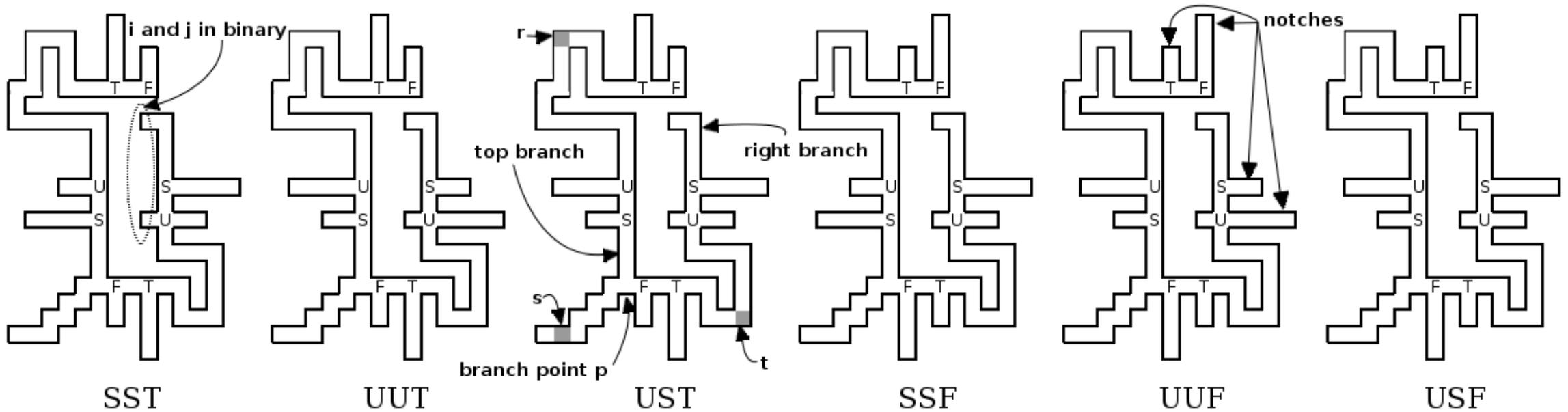
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	w_1	w_2	w_3	w_4



highlighting when C_i goes from unsatisfied (U) to satisfied (S)

C_3	USF	SSF	SST	SST
C_2	UUF	UUF	UUT	UST
C_1	UUF	UUF	UST	SST
	w_1	w_2	w_3	w_4

Gadgets (Adleman et al. 2002)



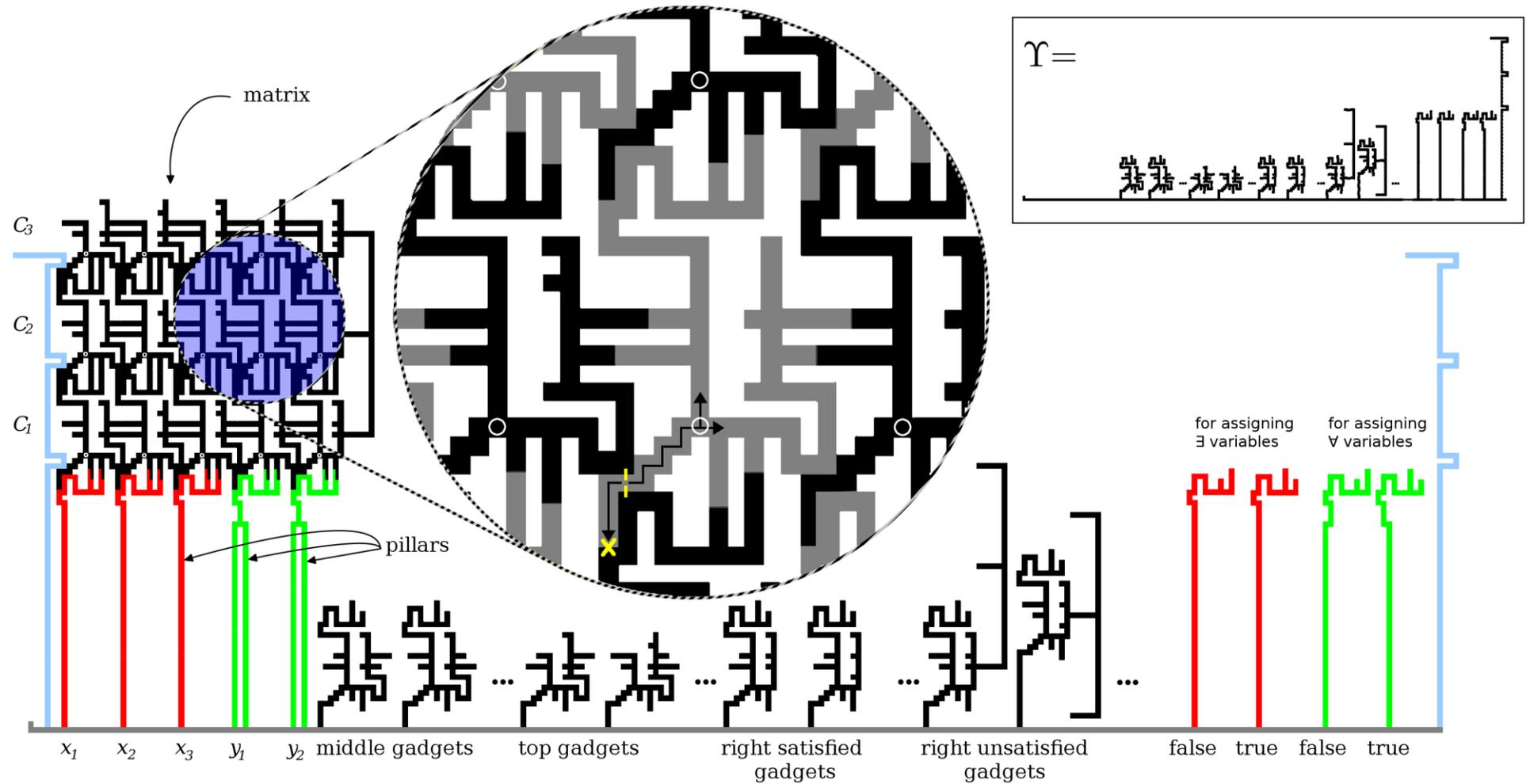
For each variable w_i and clause C_j , value of $w_i = T/F$ and

SS_{ij} – C_j satisfied by a previous variable (w_k for $k < i$)

US_{ij} – C_j unsatisfied by previous variables but is satisfied by w_i

UU_{ij} – C_j unsatisfied by previous variables and by w_i

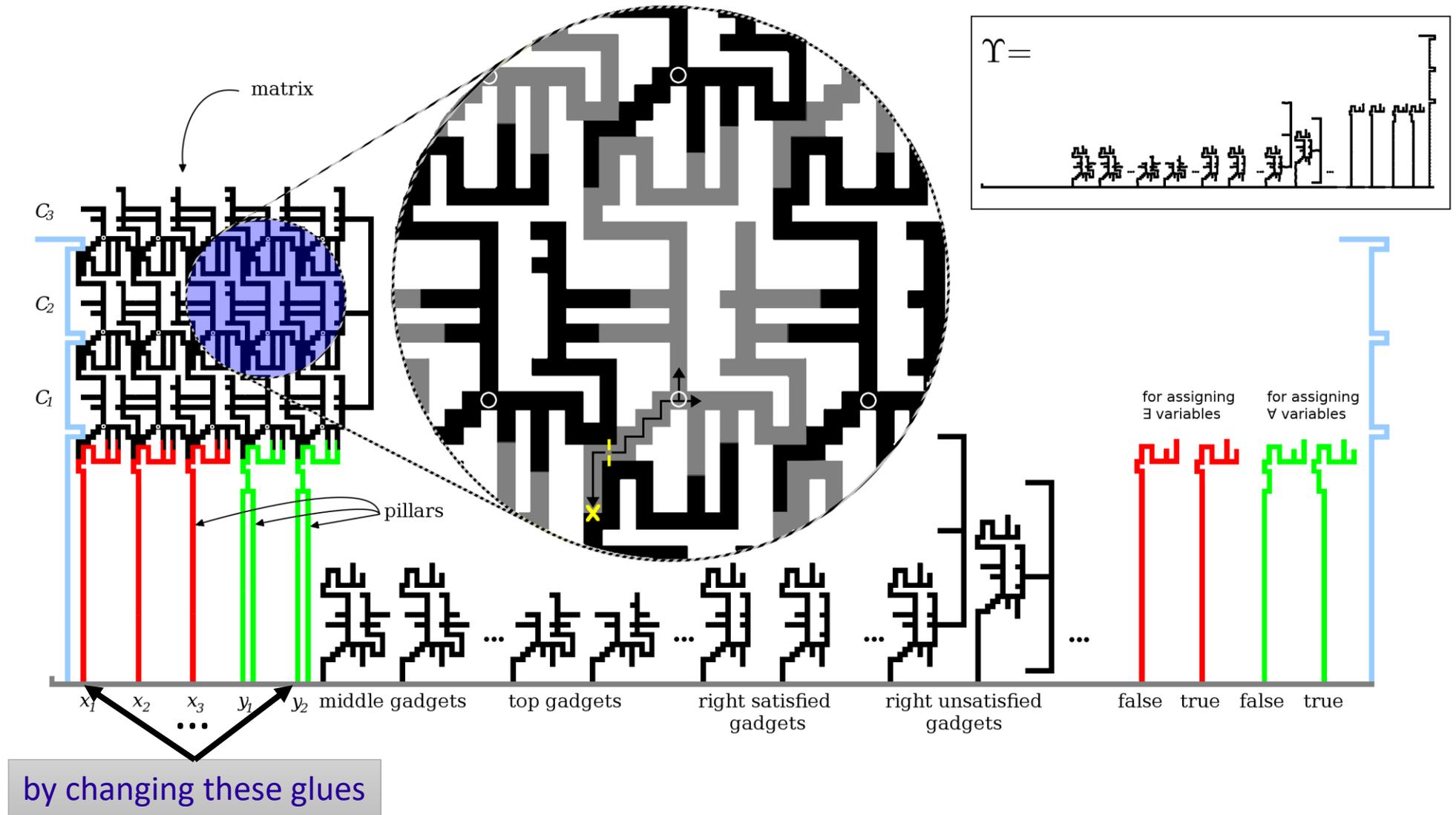
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T_γ = tile types to self-assemble γ ; size $c = |T_\gamma|$

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Shape S



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Open Questions

- How large is the gap between deterministic tile complexity and unrestricted tile complexity? our example has ratio $3/2$; Schweller (unpublished) improved to quadratic gap: <https://faculty.utrgv.edu/robert.schweller/papers/TheGap.pdf>

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 - *Power of nondeterminism*: is it possible to uniquely paint a pattern, but only by assembling more than one shape on which the pattern is painted?

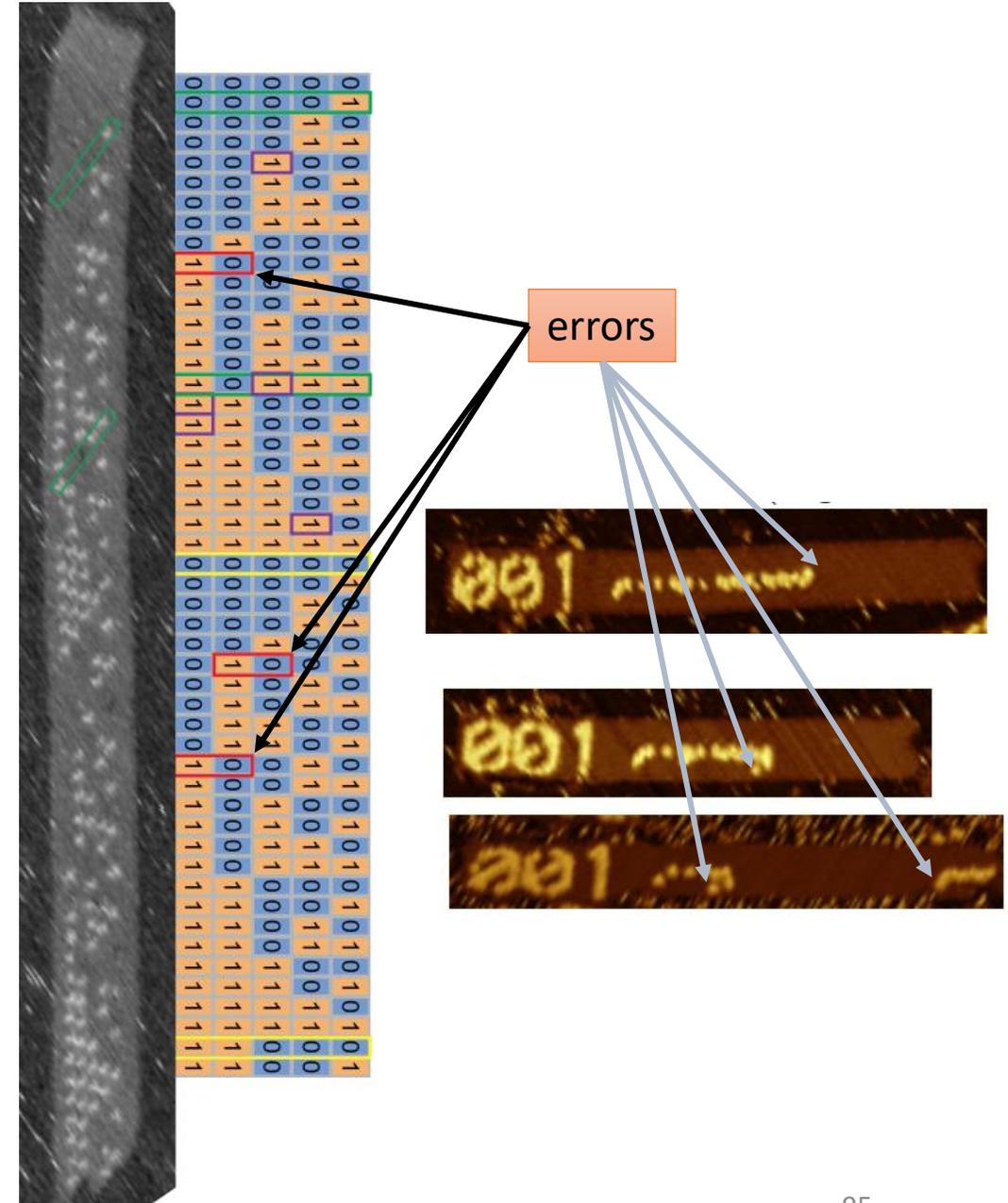
Errors in algorithmic self-assembly

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 - tiles attach but never detach
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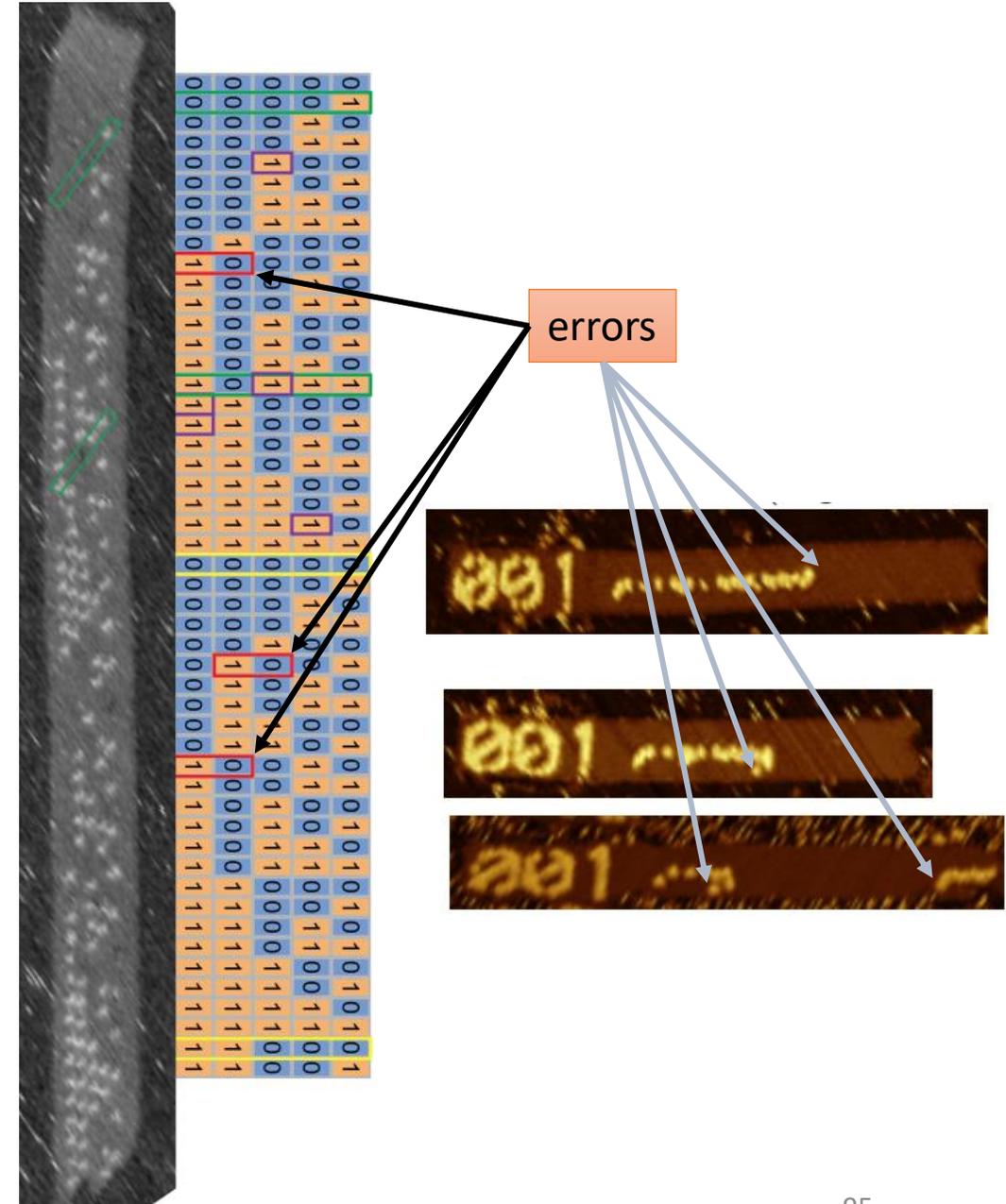
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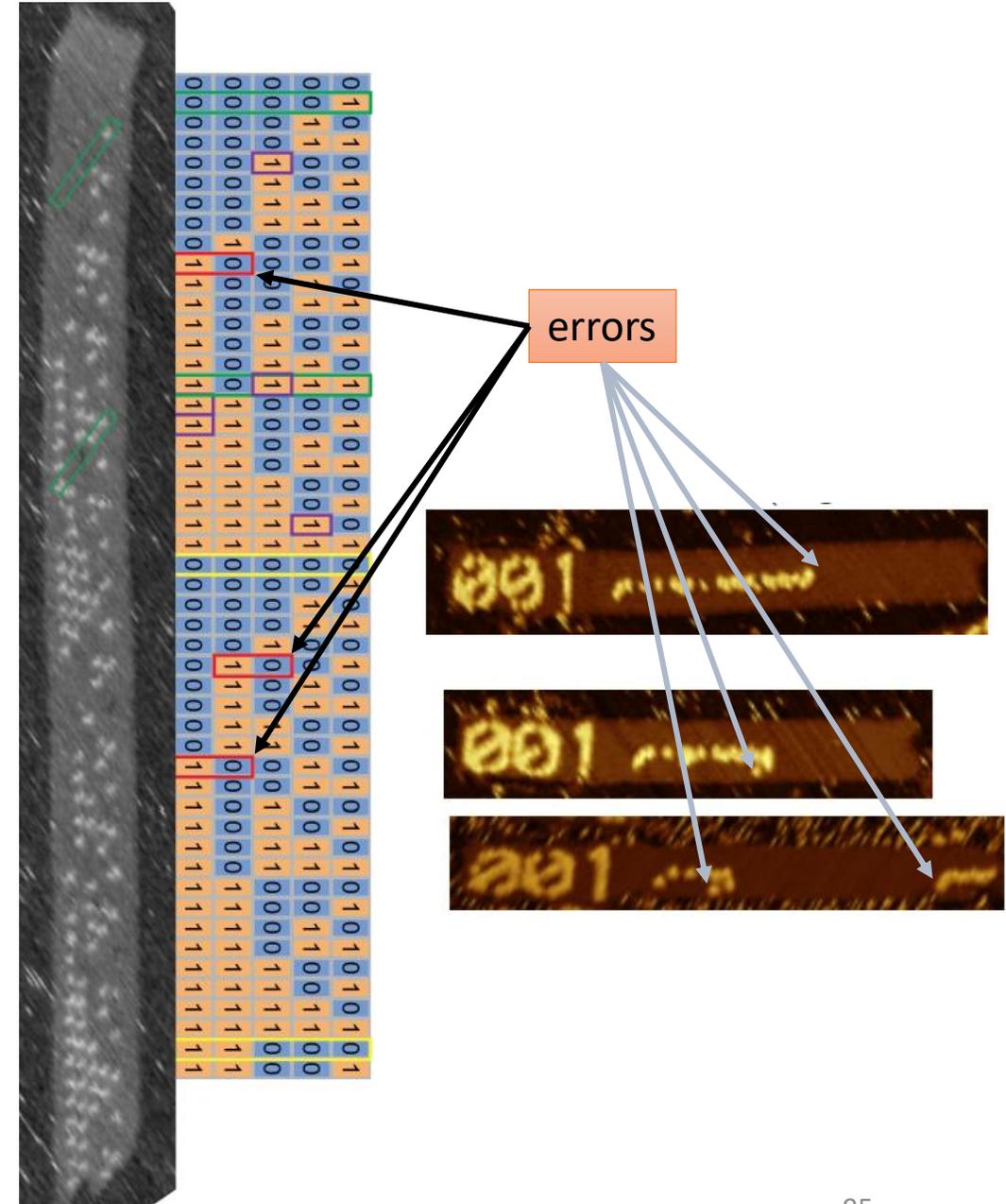
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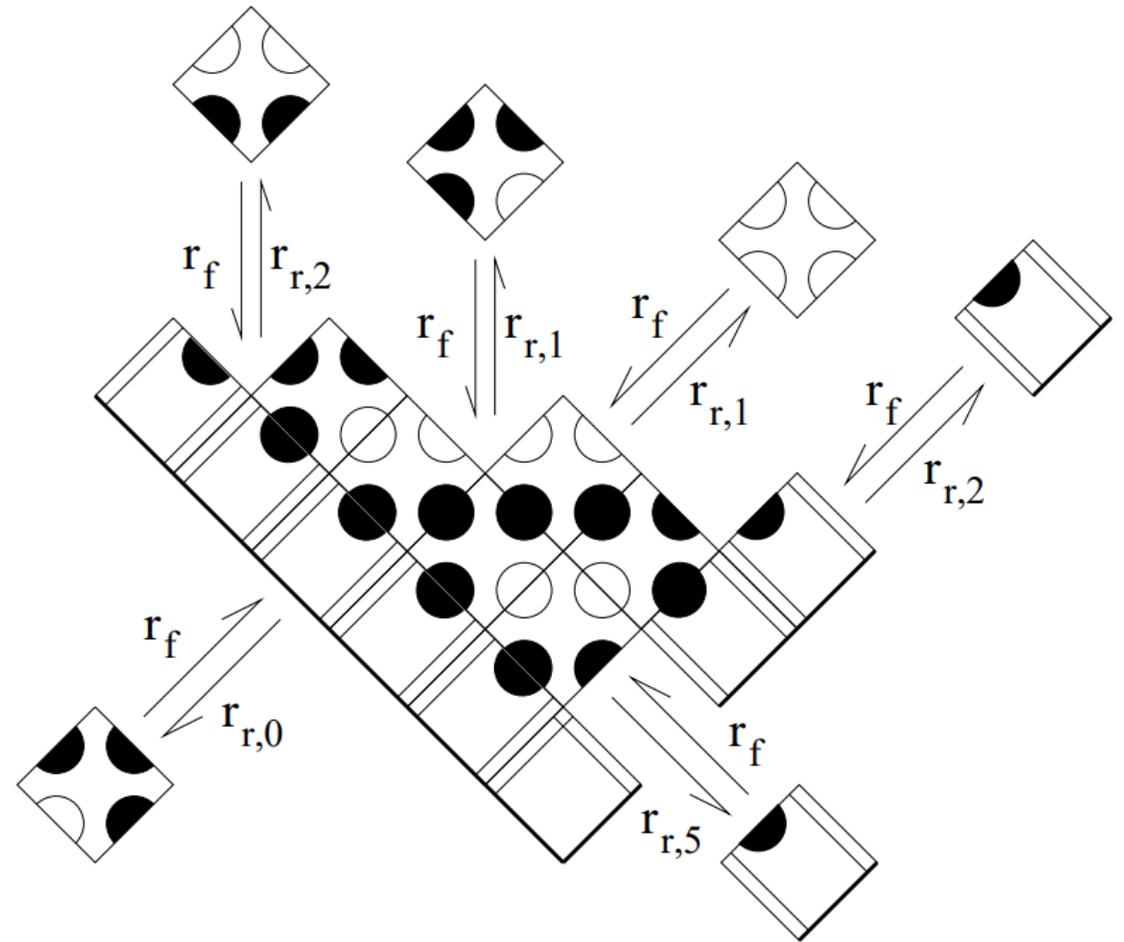


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- kinetic Tile Assembly Model (kTAM); essential differences with aTAM:
 - tiles can detach
 - tiles can bind with strength 1

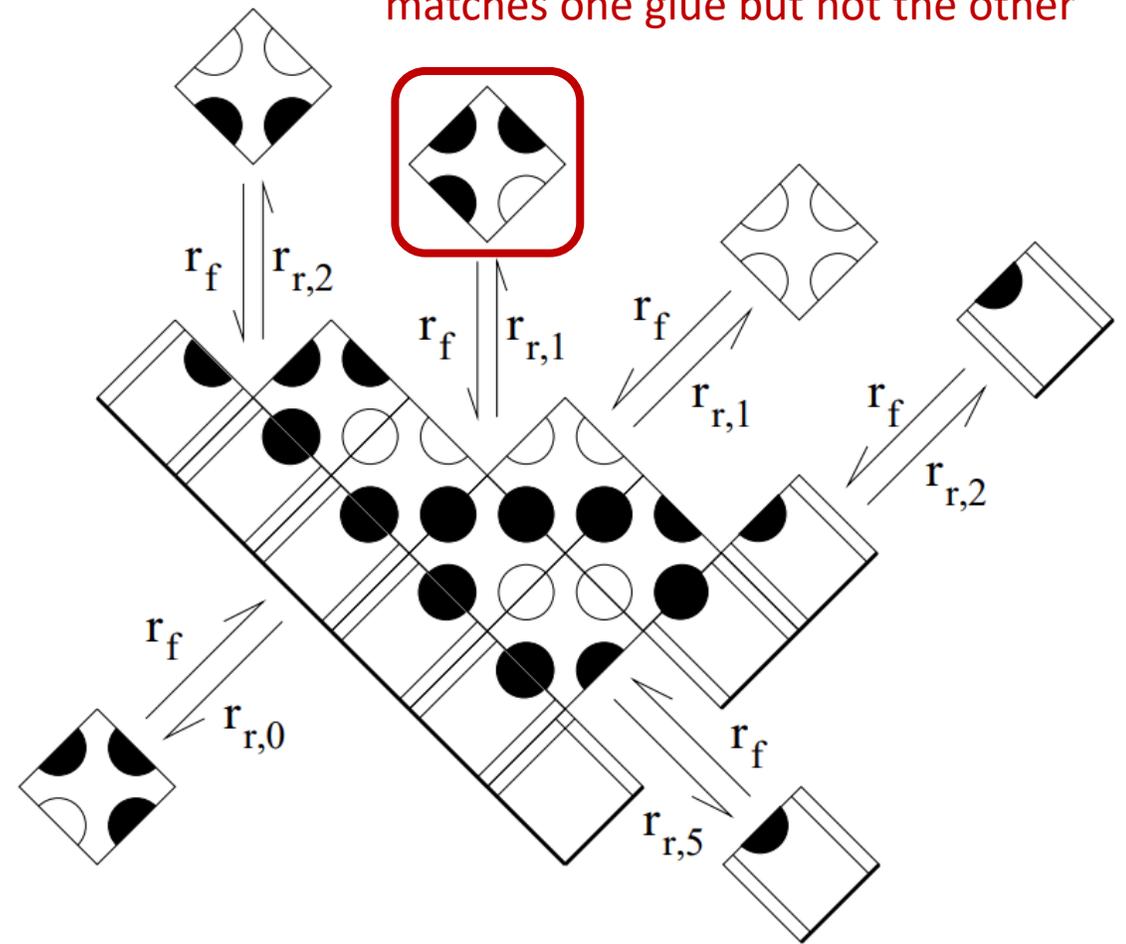


Modeling errors: kinetic Tile Assembly Model



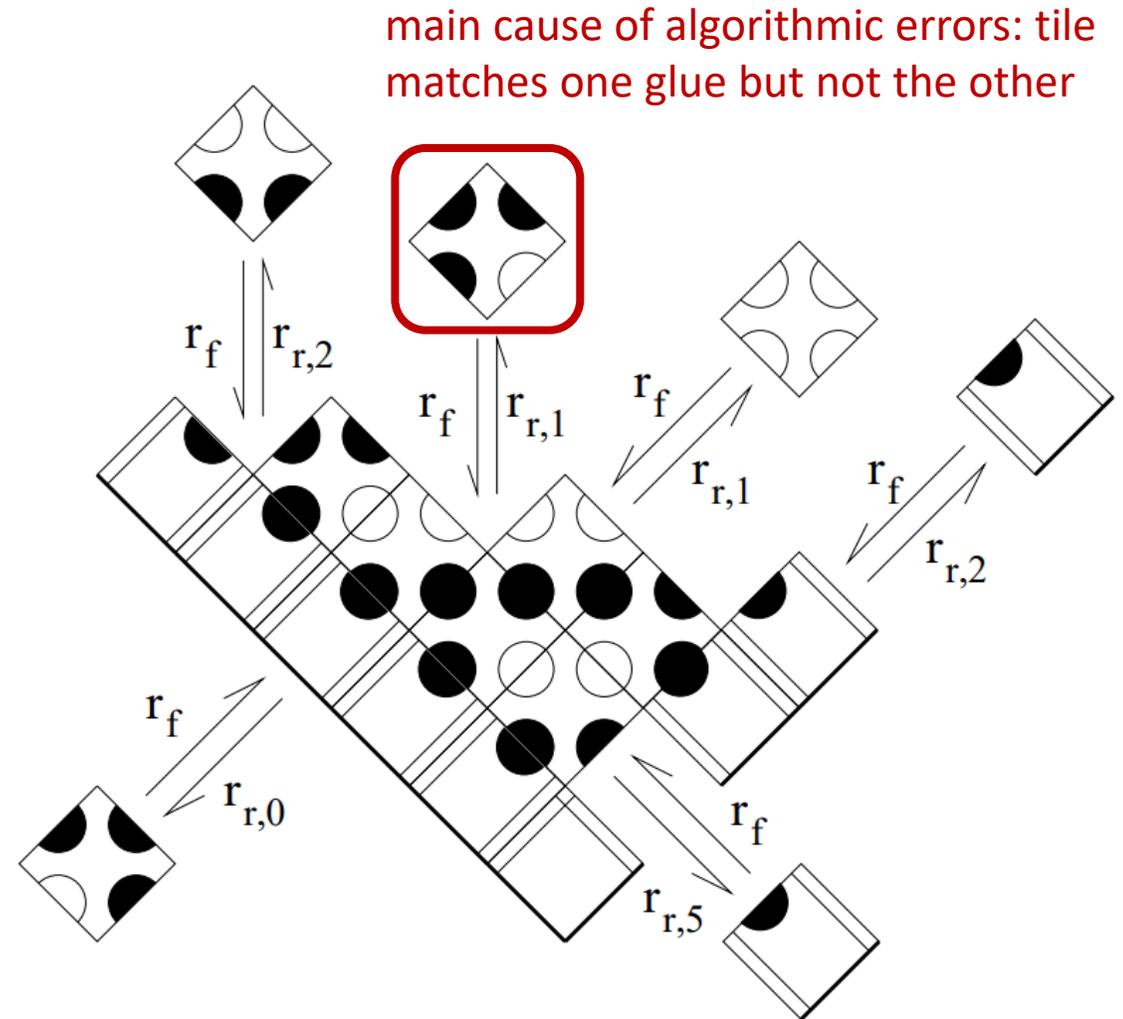
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main cause of algorithmic errors: tile matches one glue but not the other



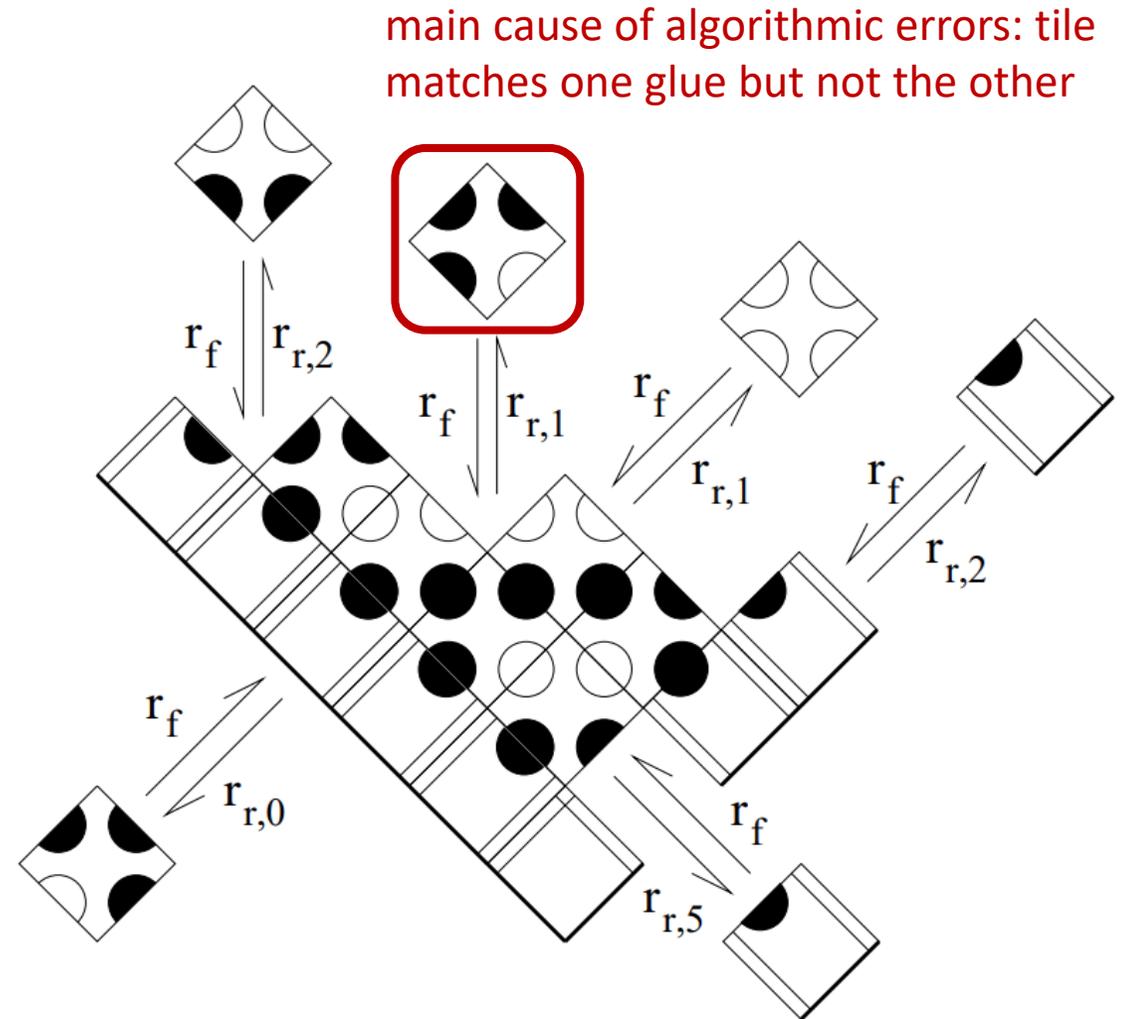
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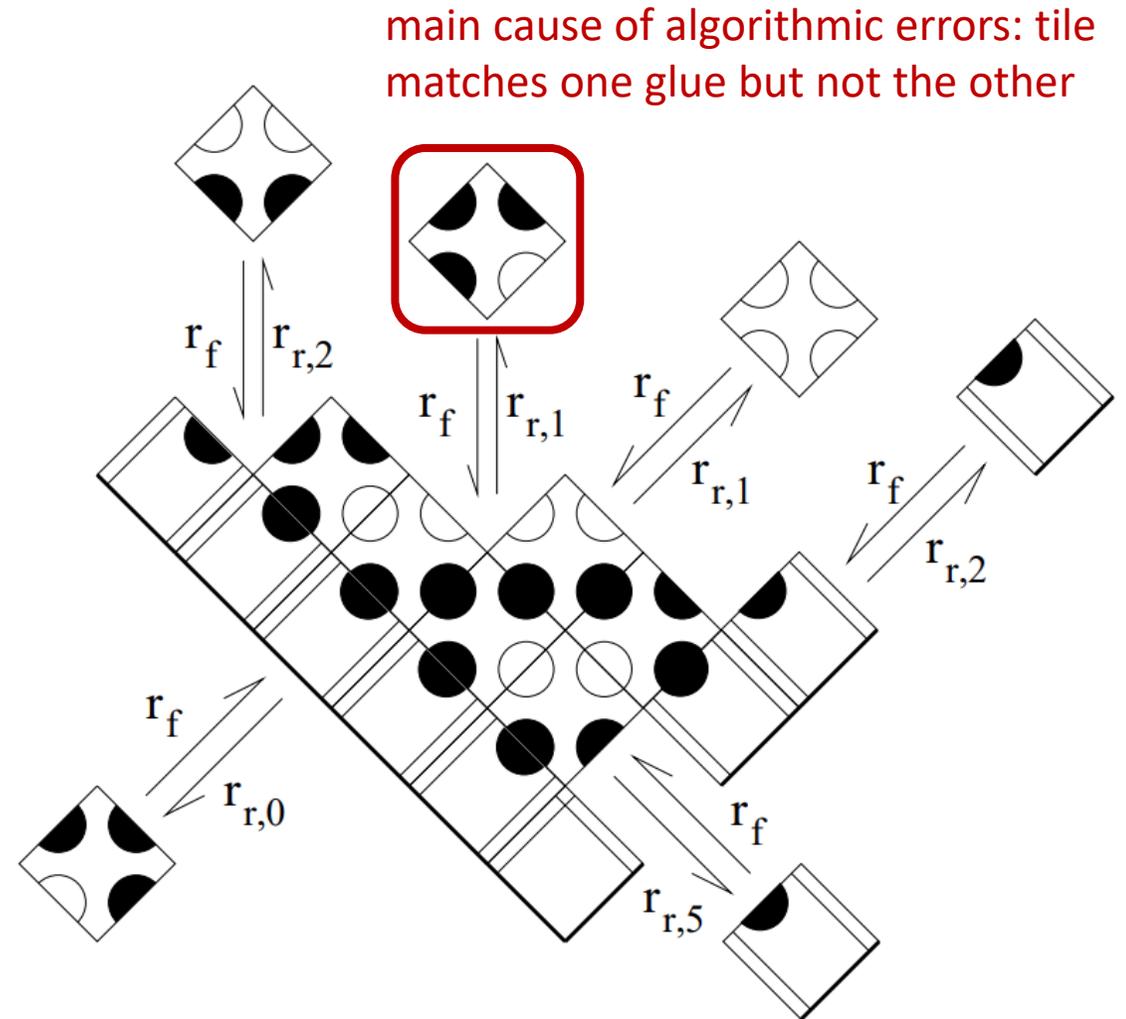
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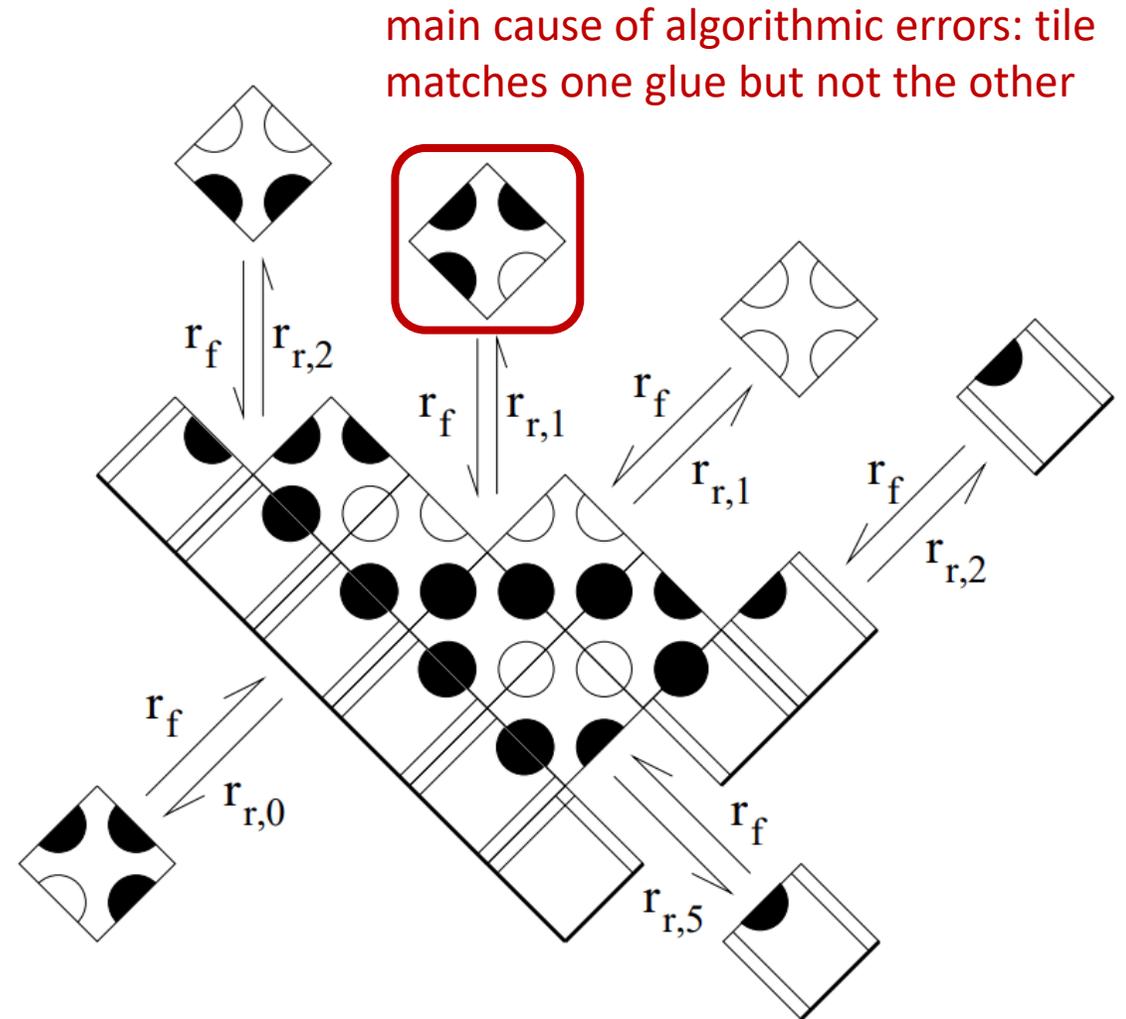
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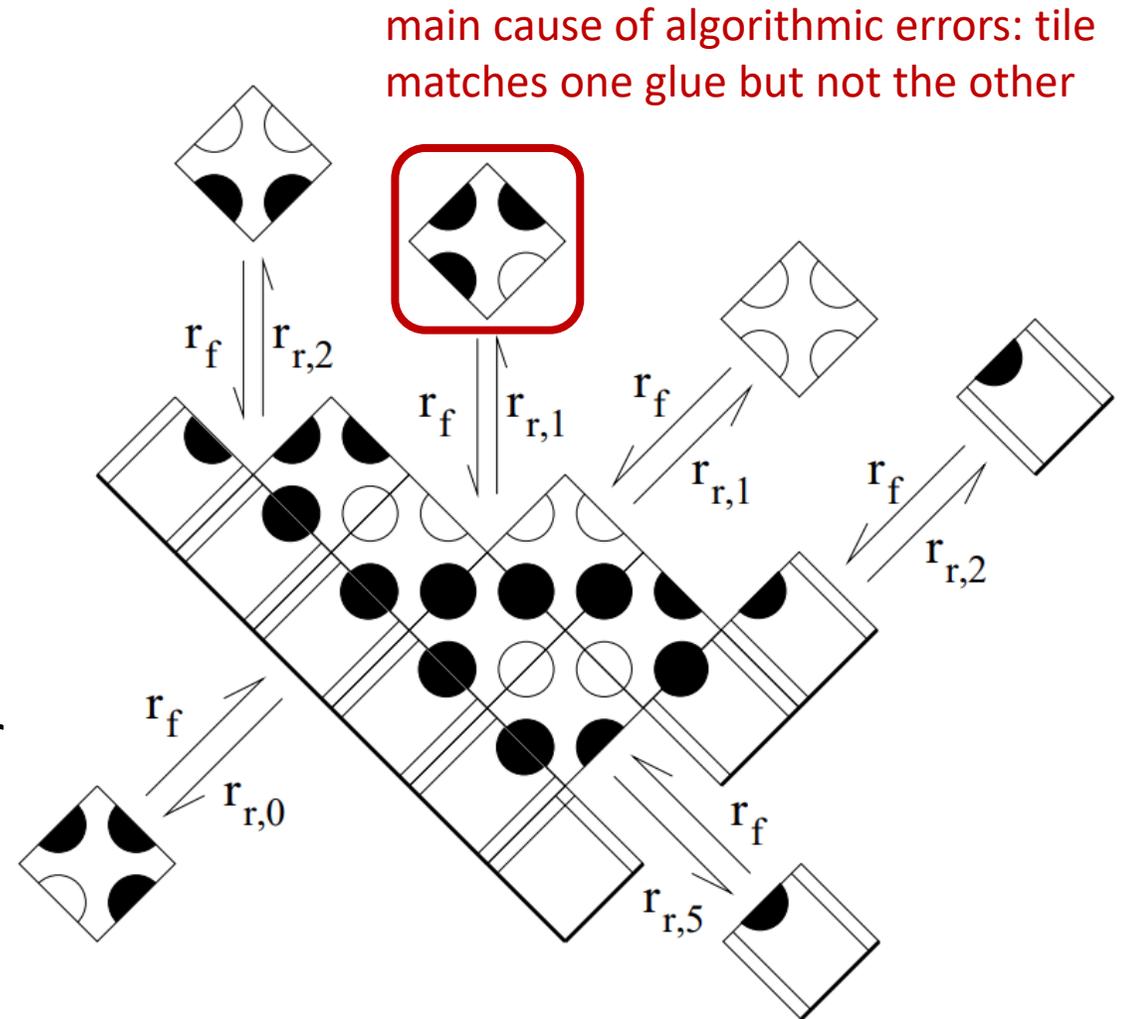
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- Take home message: tiles bound with fewer glues (potential errors) fall off faster, but could get locked in by subsequent neighboring attachment



kTAM simulators

- ISU TAS (developed by Matt Patitz) also does kTAM simulation:
 - [http://self-assembly.net/wiki/index.php?title=ISU TAS](http://self-assembly.net/wiki/index.php?title=ISU_TAS)
 - [http://self-assembly.net/wiki/index.php?title=ISU TAS Tutorials](http://self-assembly.net/wiki/index.php?title=ISU_TAS_Tutorials)
- xgrow (developed by Erik Winfree)
 - <https://www.dna.caltech.edu/Xgrow/>
 - older and a bit less intuitive

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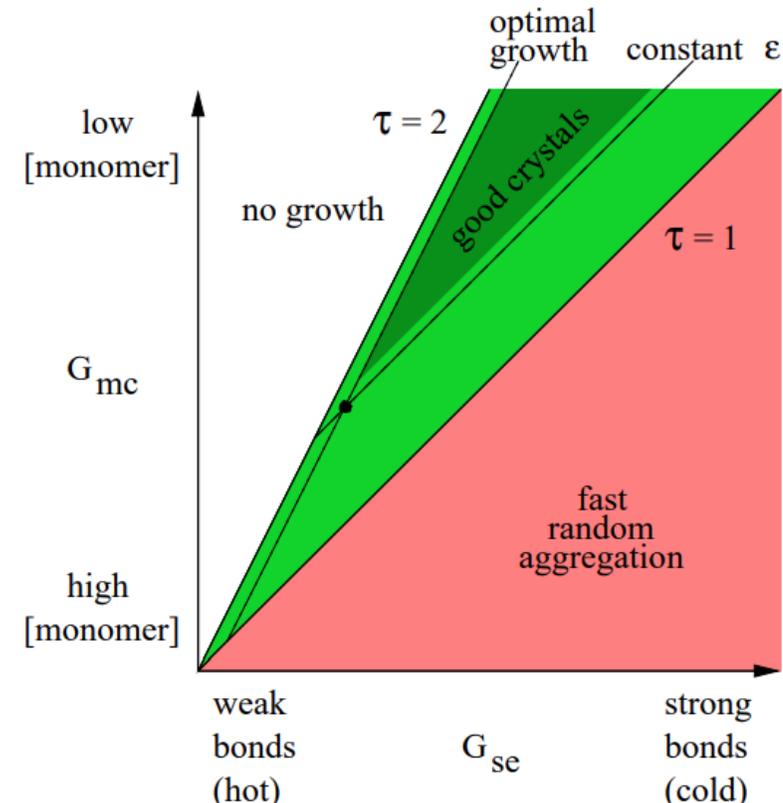
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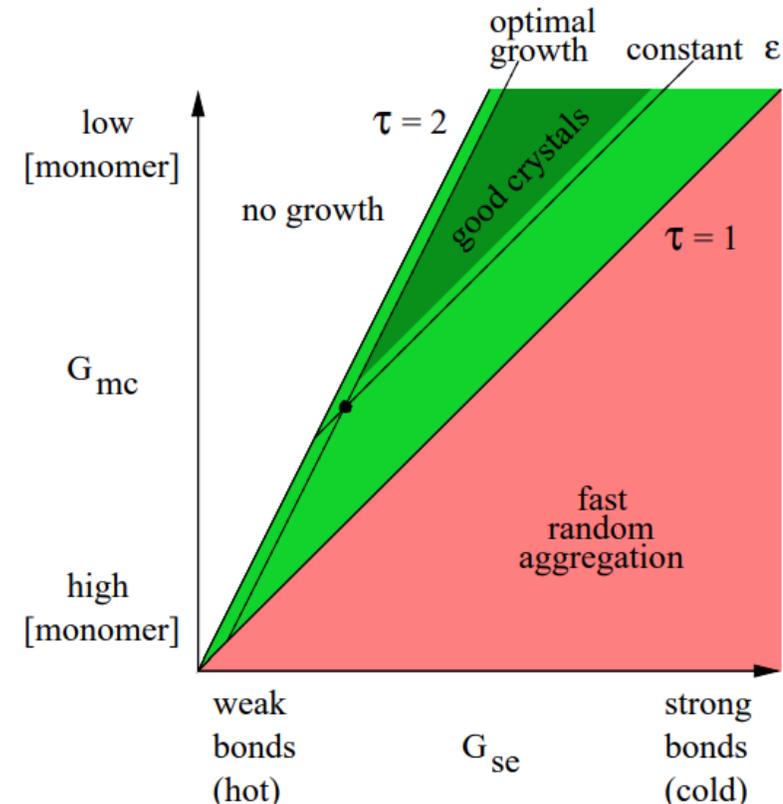
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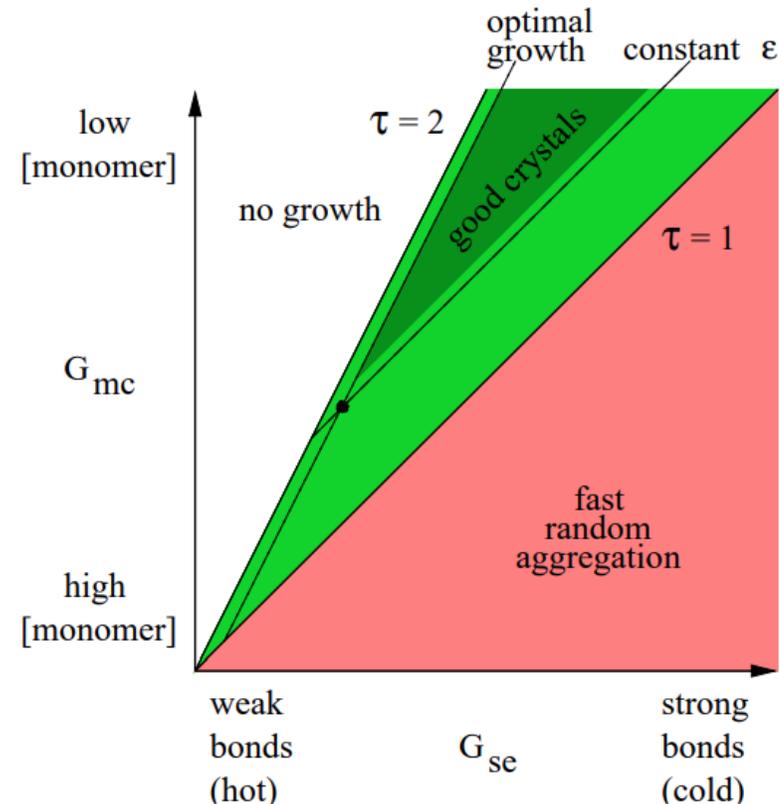
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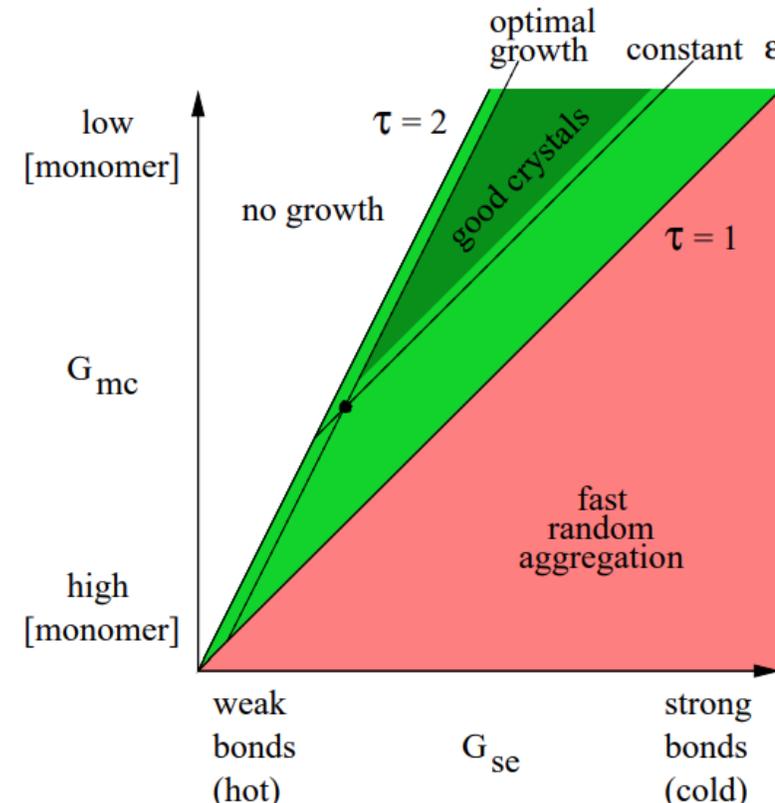
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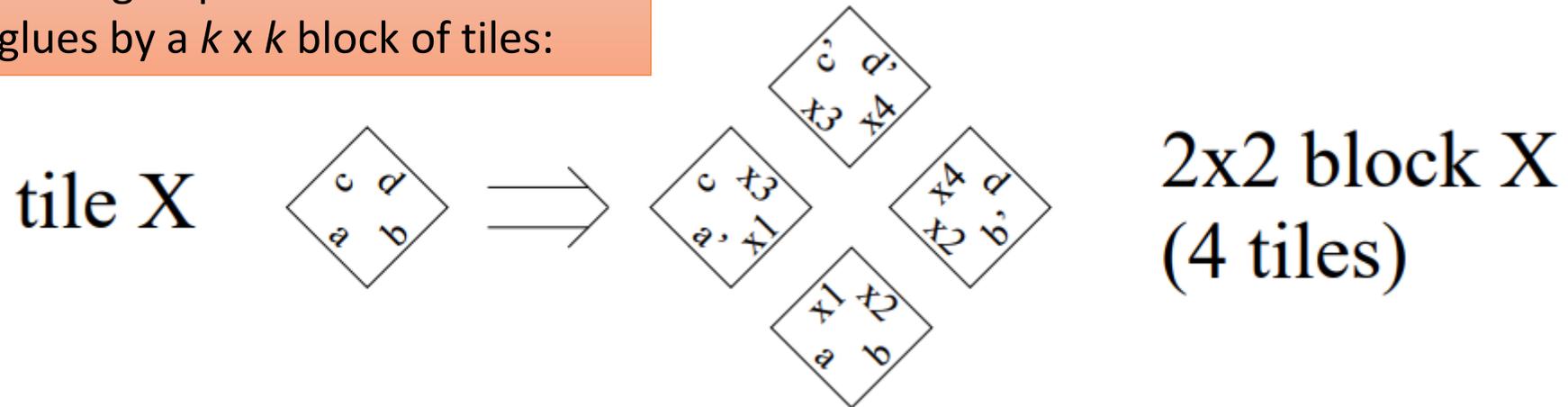
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Theorem [Winfree, 1998]: To have total error rate ϵ , for fastest assembly speed, set $G_{se} = \ln(4/\epsilon)$ and $G_{mc} = \ln(8/\epsilon^2)$, i.e., $G_{mc} = 2G_{se} - \ln 2$, i.e., $r_f/r_{r,2} = 2$



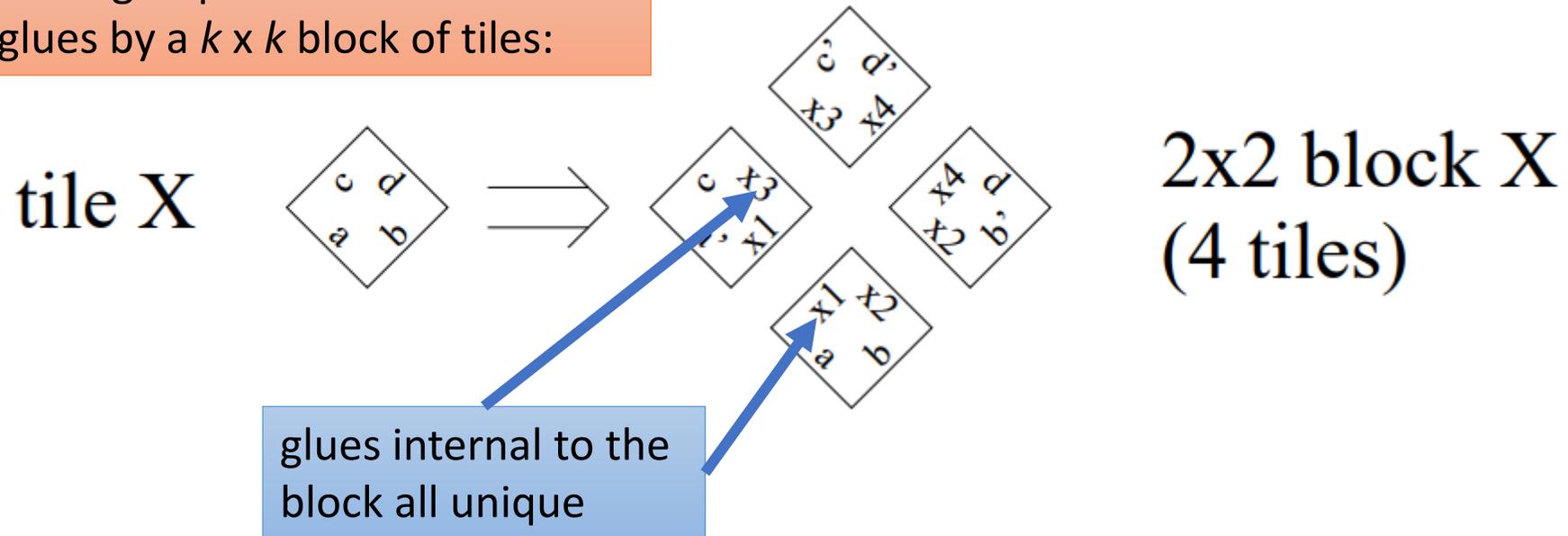
Proofreading: Algorithmic error correction

$k \times k$ proofreading: replace each tile with all strength-1 glues by a $k \times k$ block of tiles:



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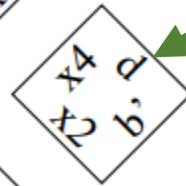
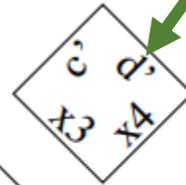
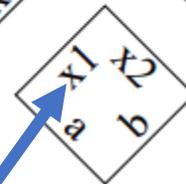
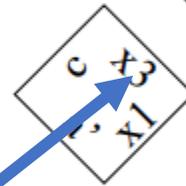
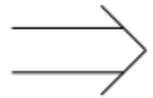
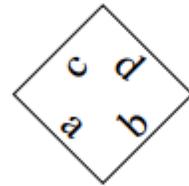
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tile X



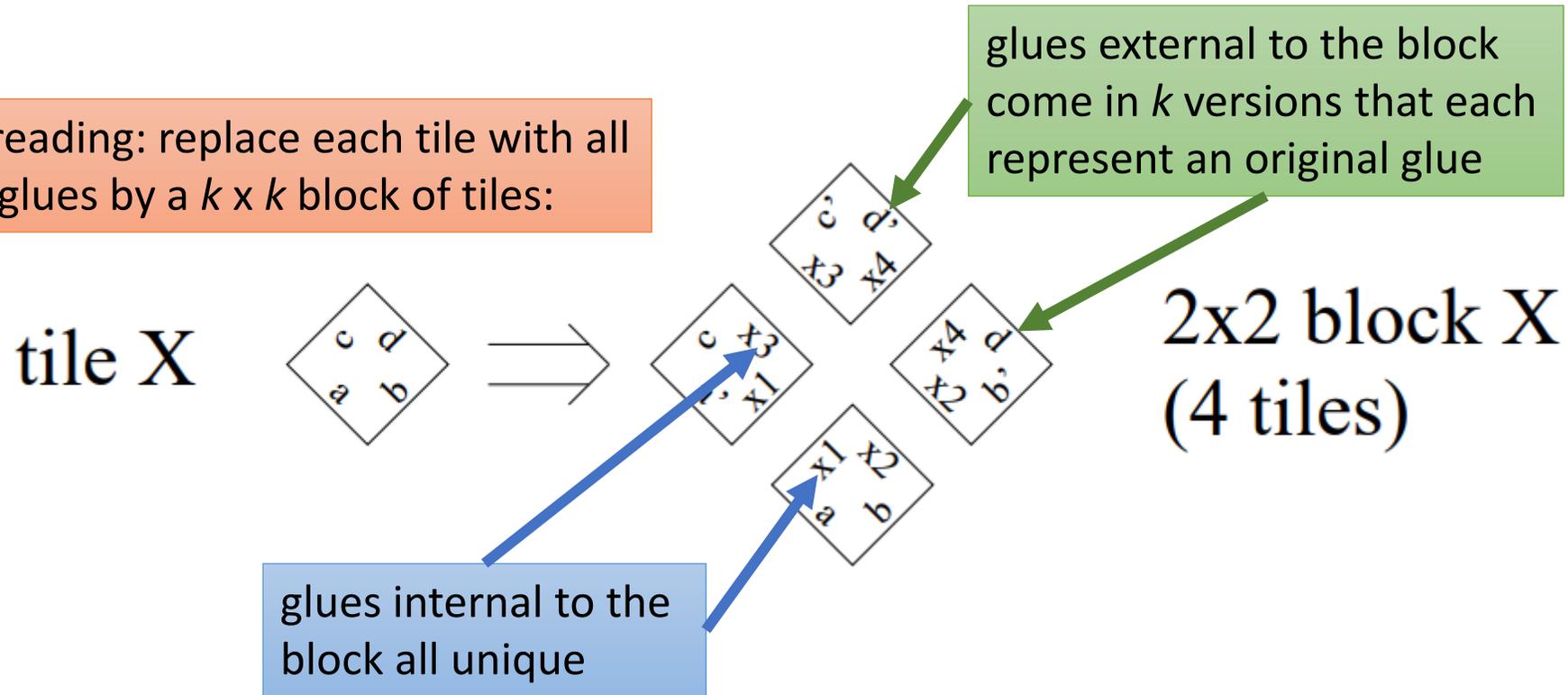
2x2 block X
(4 tiles)

glues internal to the block all unique

glues external to the block come in k versions that each represent an original glue

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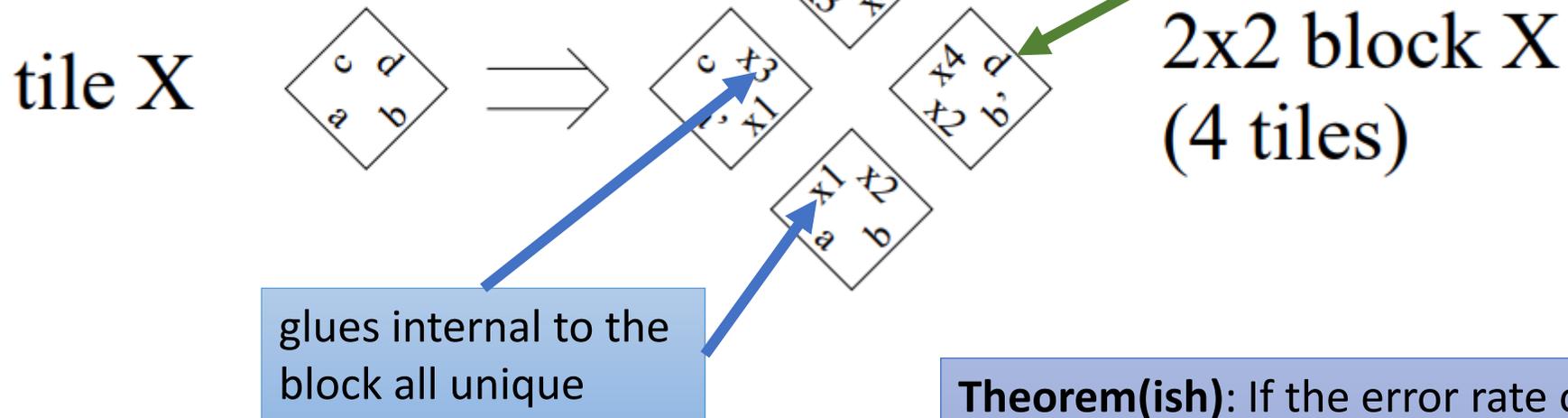
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Theorem(ish): If the error rate of the original tile system is ε , the error rate of the $k \times k$ proofreading tile system is $O(\varepsilon^k)$, e.g., if $\varepsilon = 0.01$, then 2×2 proofreading gets error rate about $\varepsilon^2 = 0.0001$.

Experimental algorithmic self-assembly

Crystals that think about how they're growing



joint work with Damien Woods, Erik Winfree, Cameron Myhrvold, Joy Hui, Felix Zhou, Peng Yin

slides for ECS 289A: Theory of Molecular Computation



Caltech



Inria Paris



UC Davis



Harvard

Acknowledgements



Caltech



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UC Davis



Harvard

Damien Woods
(co-first author)



Erik Winfree



co-authors

Cameron Myhrvold



Peng Yin



Felix Zhou



Joy Hui



lab/science help

Sungwook Woo

Constantine Evans

Sarina Mohanty

Niranjan Srinivas

Deborah Fygenon

Yannick Rondolez

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Nikhil Gopalkrishnan

Chris Thachuk

Nadine Dabby

Jongmin Kim

Paul Rothmund

Bryan Wei

Cody Geary

Ashwin Gopinath



Diverse and robust molecular algorithms using reprogrammable DNA self-assembly.
Damien Woodst, David Doty†, Cameron Myhrvold, Joy Hui, Felix Zhou, Peng Yin, Erik Winfree.
Nature 2019. †*These authors contributed equally.*

Hierarchy of abstractions

➔ Bits:	Boolean circuits compute
Tiles:	Tile growth implements circuits
DNA:	DNA strands implement tiles

Harmonious arrangement

0

1

1

0

1

1

Harmonious arrangement



0

1

1

0

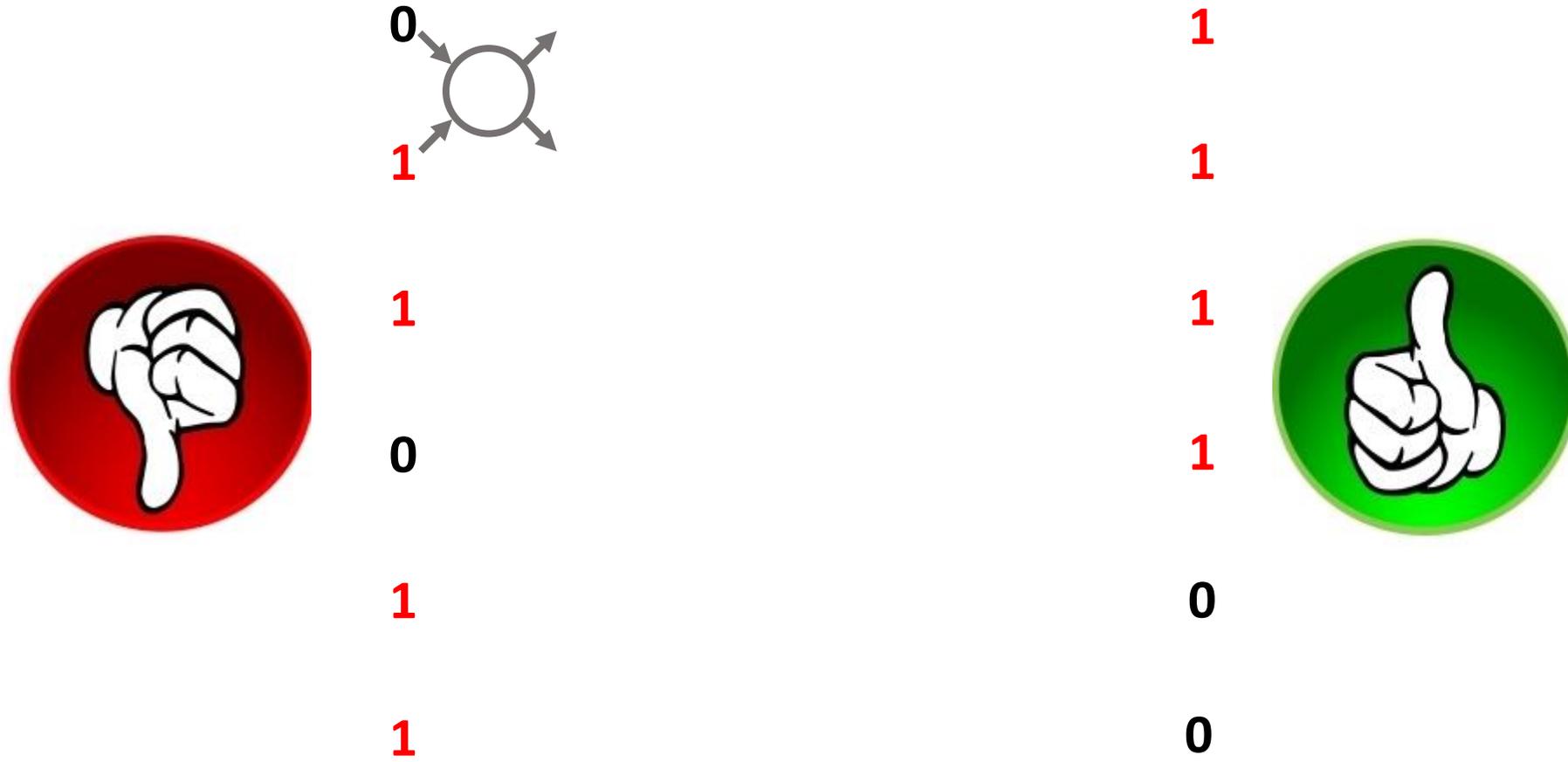
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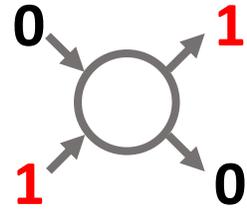
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1

1

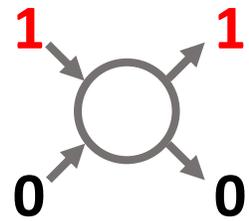
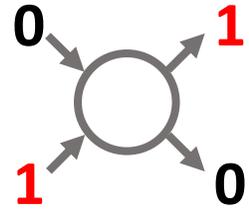
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0

0



Harmonious arrangement



1

1

1

1

1

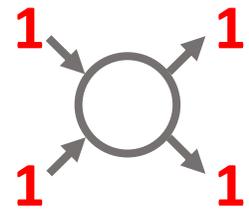
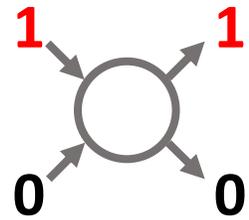
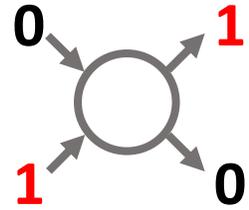
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0

0



Harmonious arrangement



1

1

1

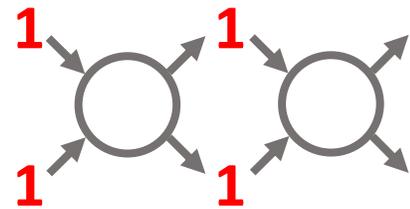
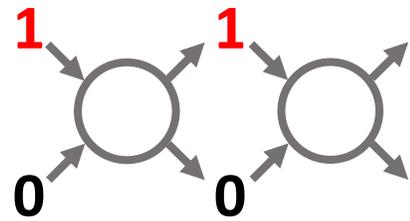
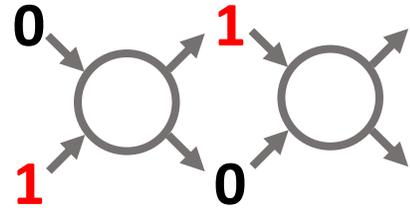
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0

0



Harmonious arrangement



1

1

1

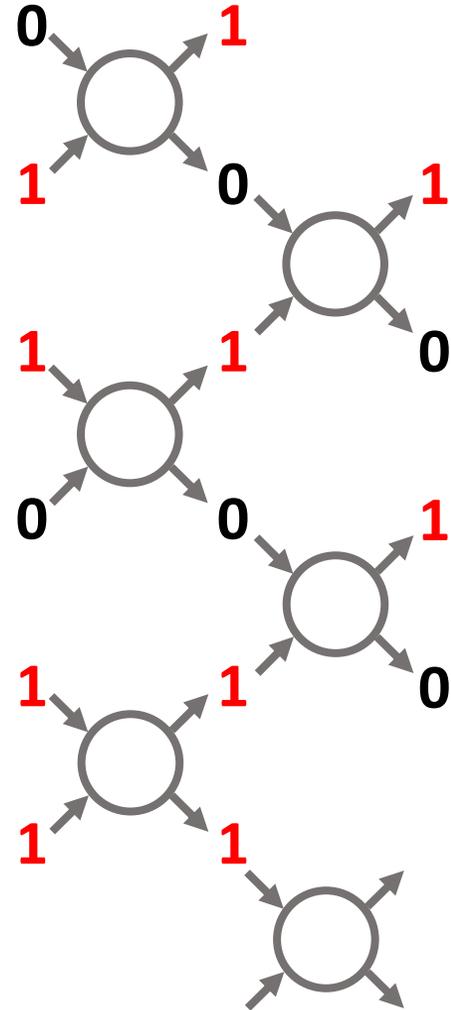
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0

0



Harmonious arrangement



1

1

1

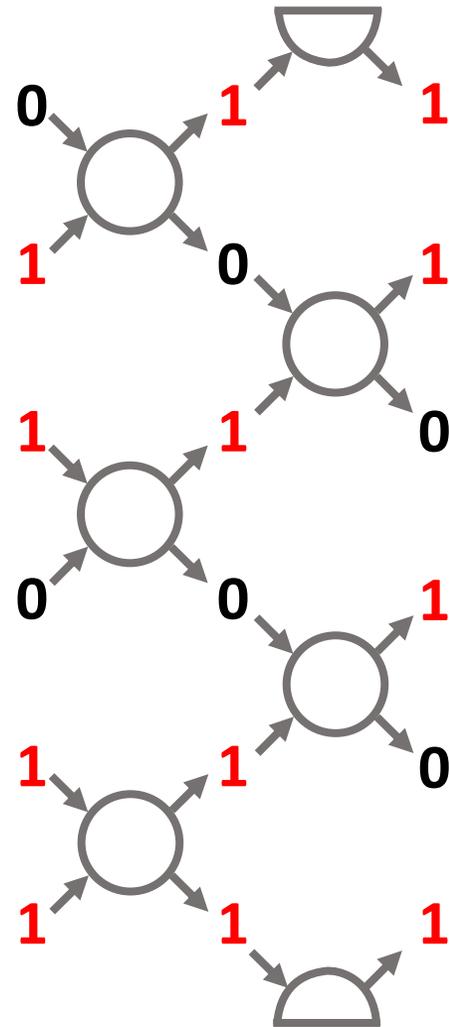
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0



Harmonious arrangement



1

1

1

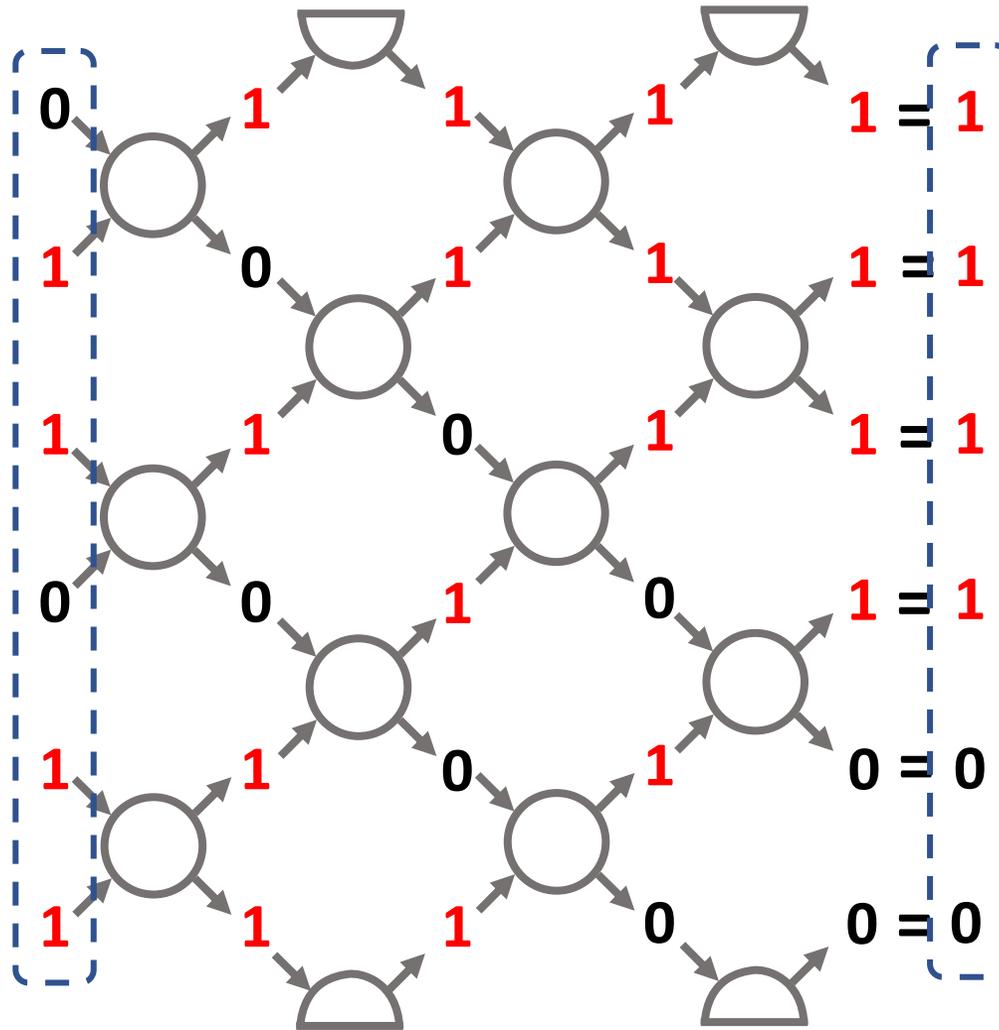
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0

0



Harmonious arrangement



a.k.a. sorting



Odd bits

1

0

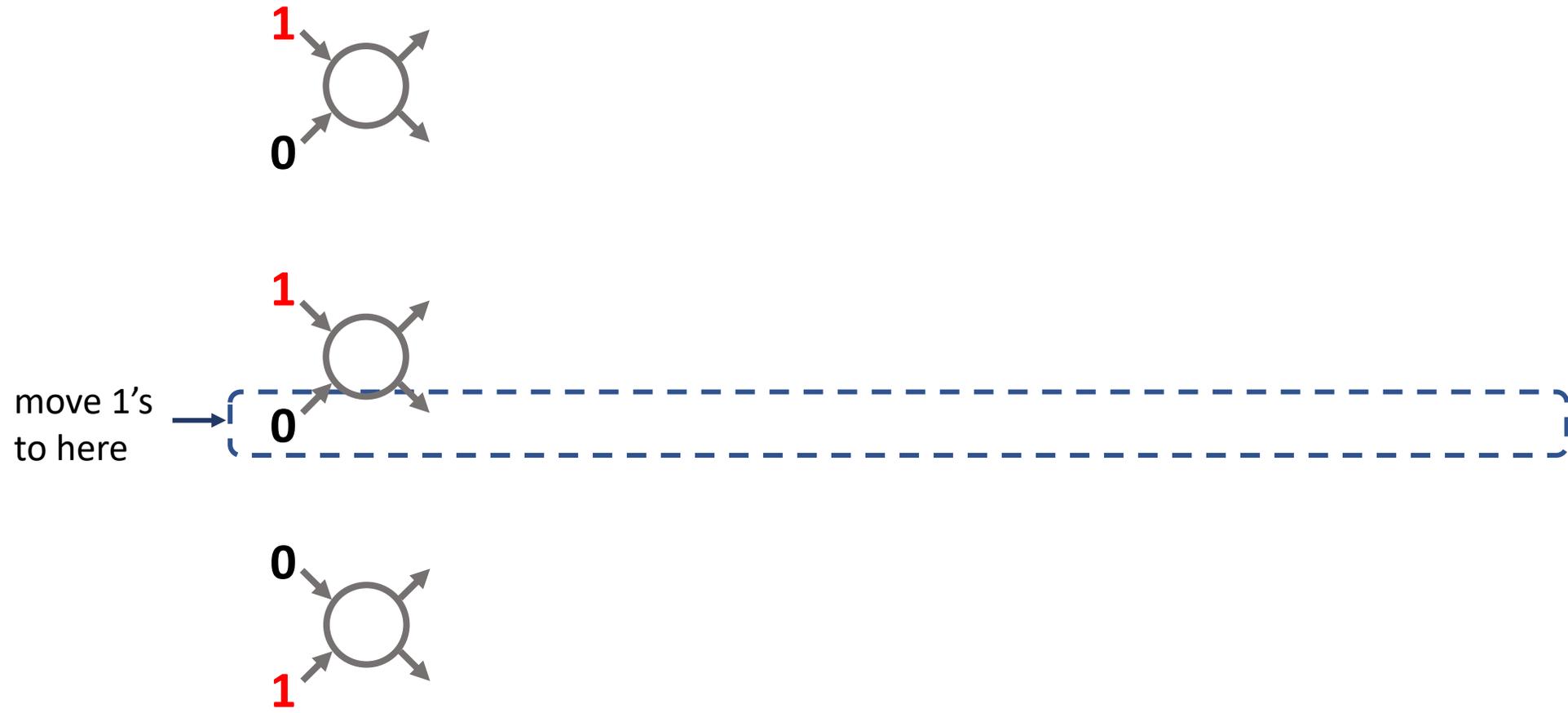
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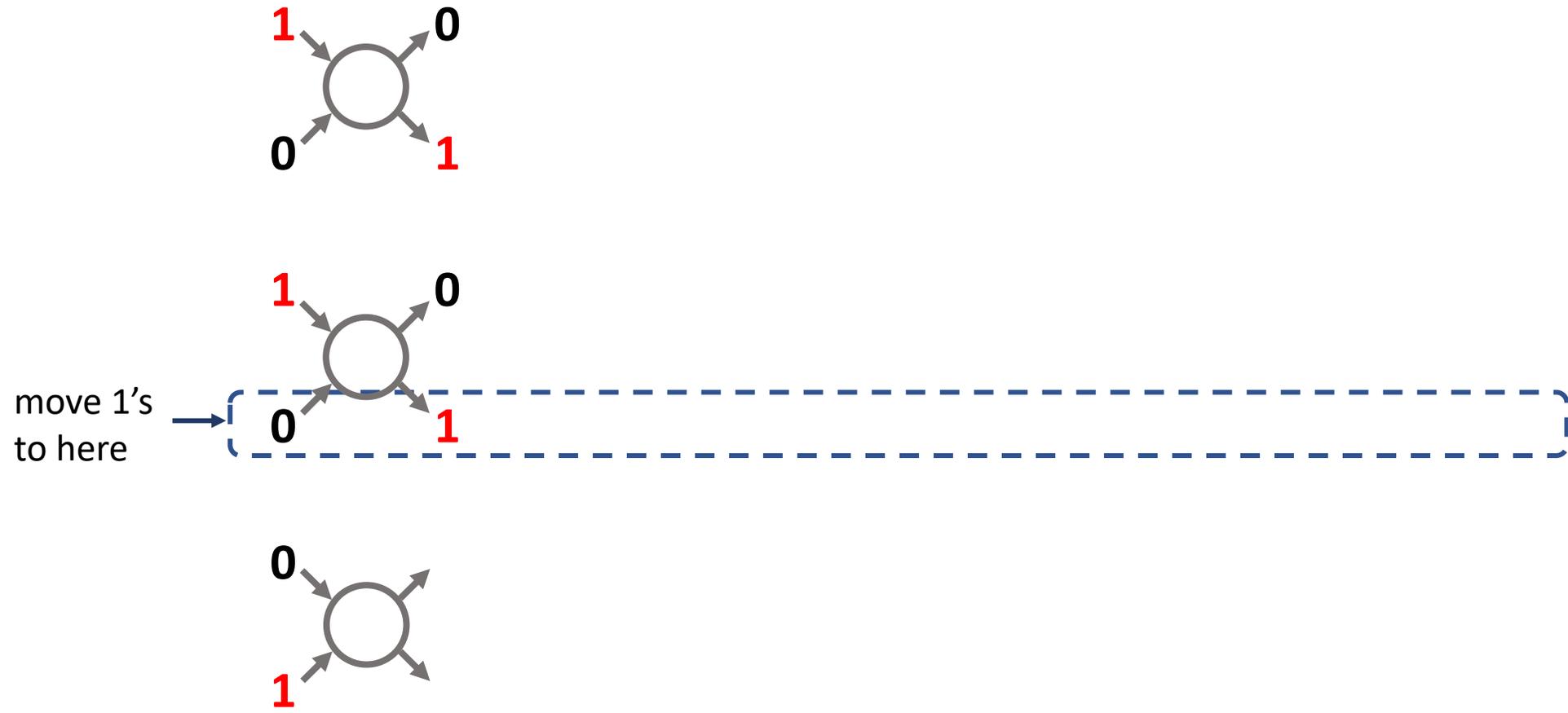
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1

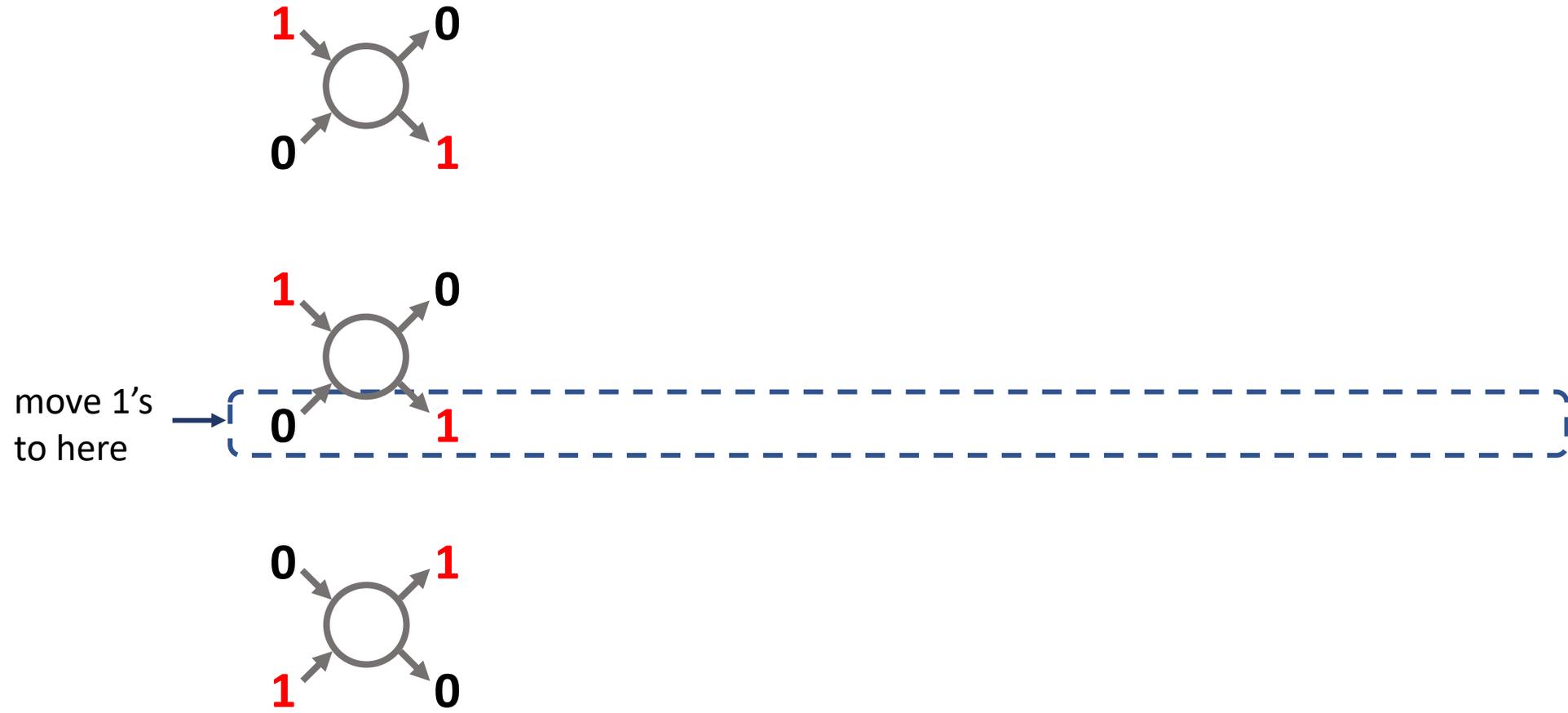
Odd bits



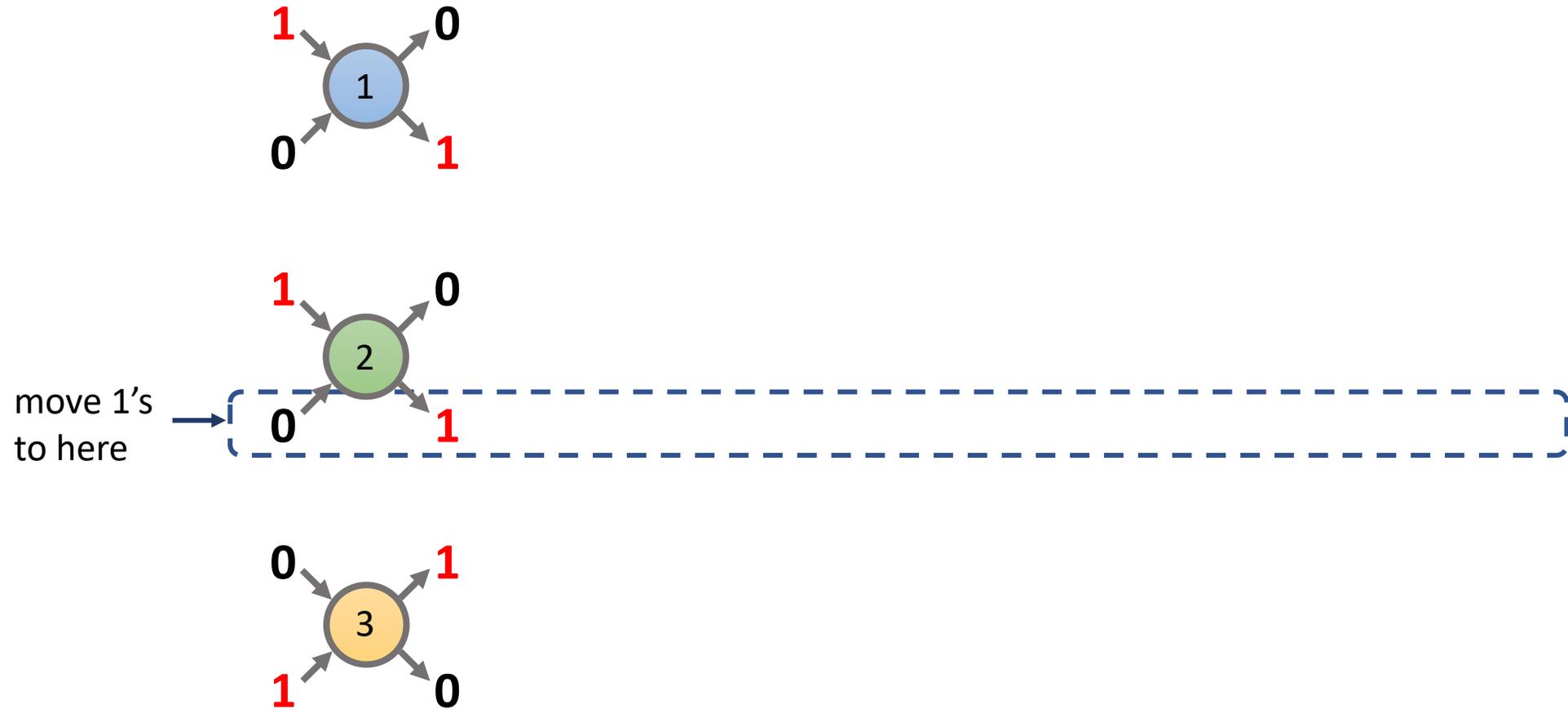
Odd bits



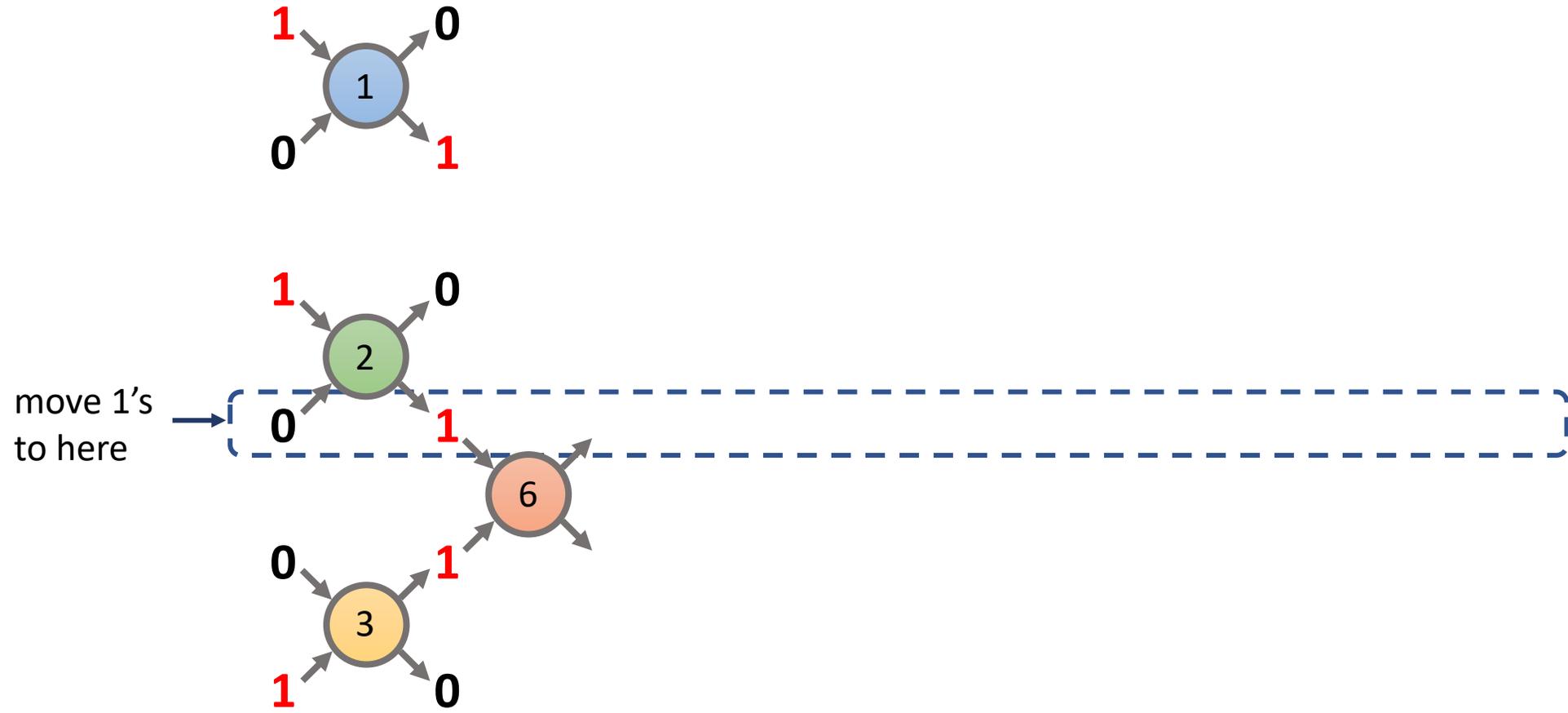
Odd bits



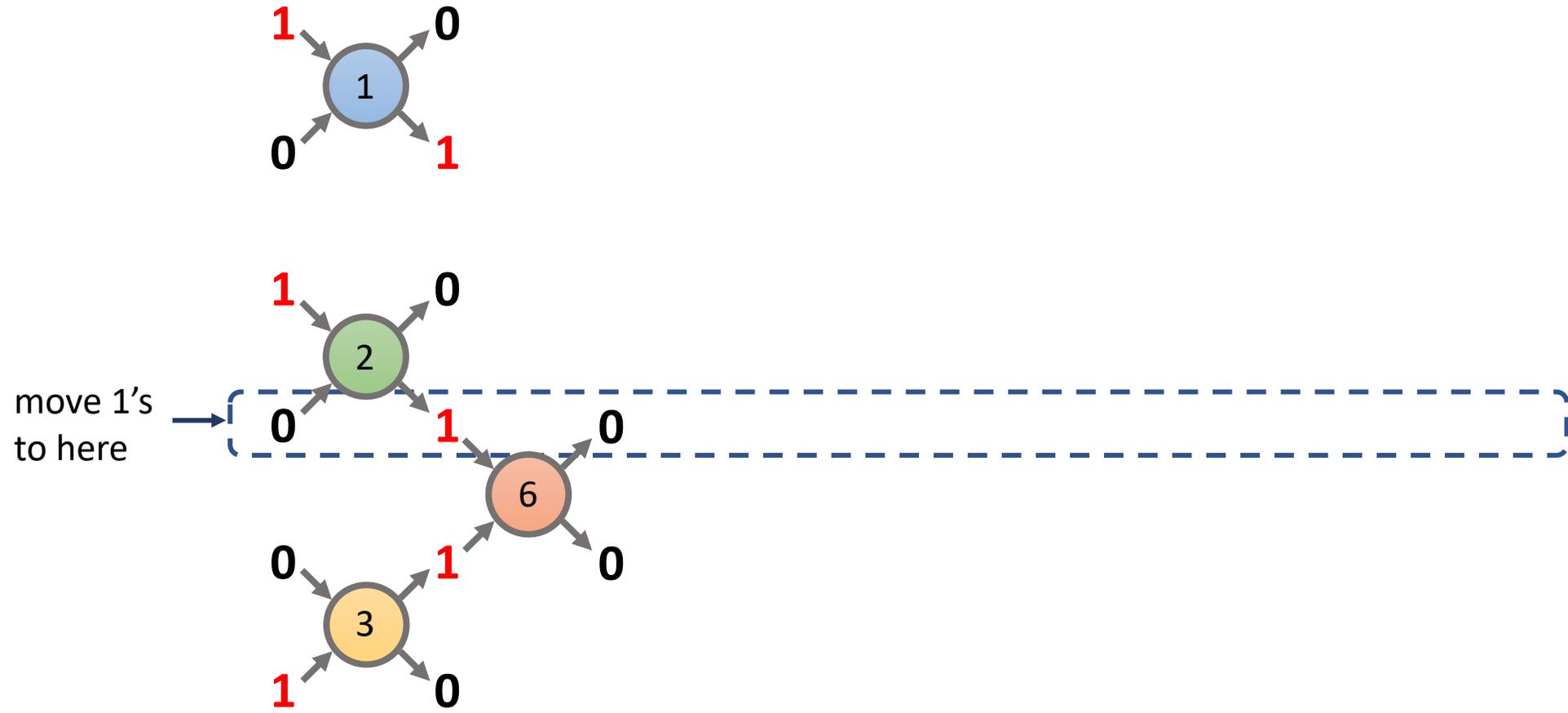
Odd bits



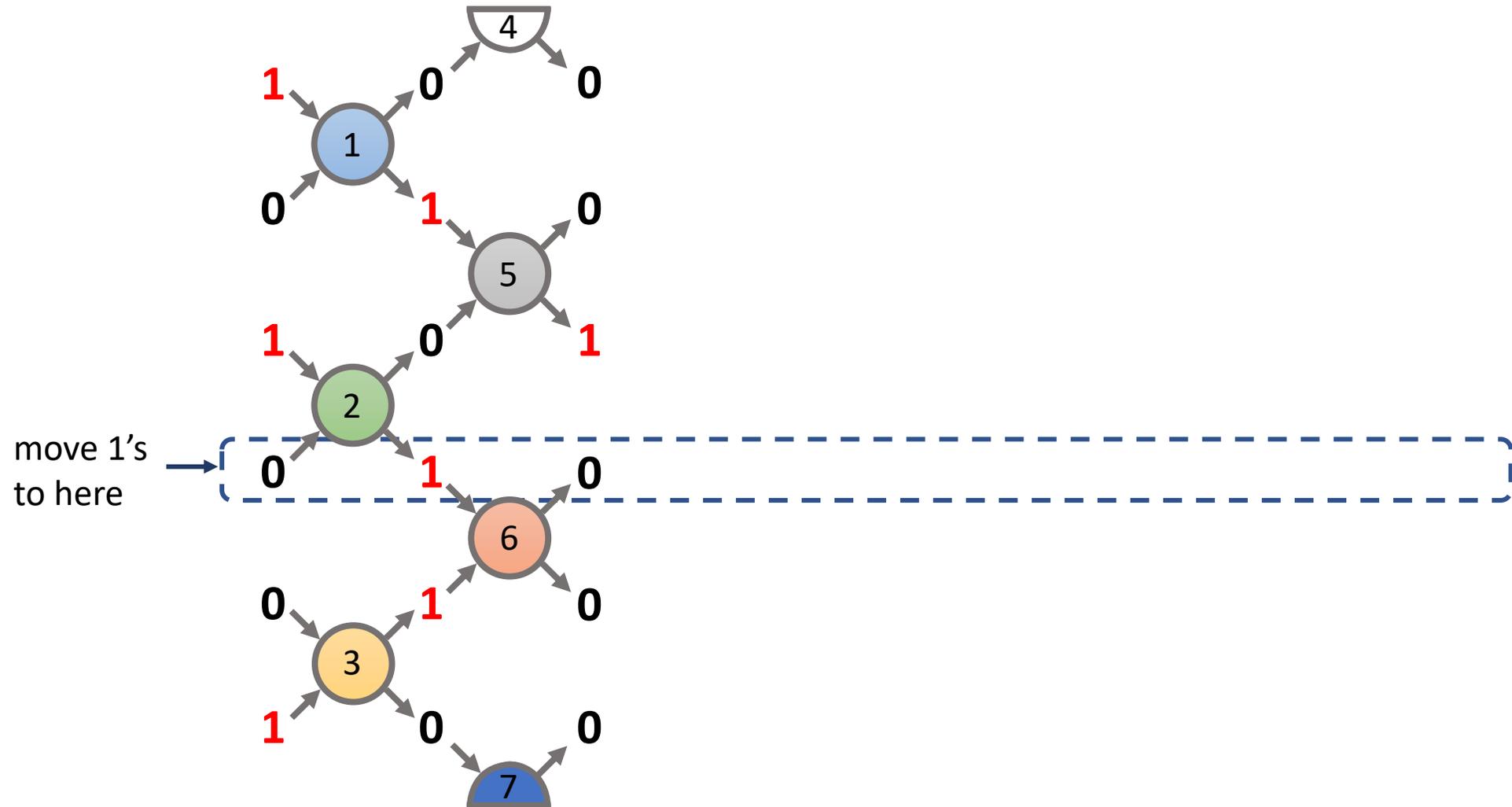
Odd bits



Odd bits



Odd bits



Parity

1

0

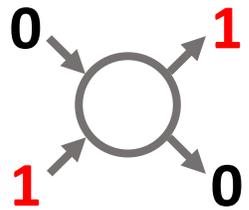
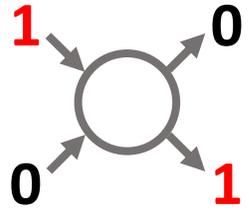
1

1

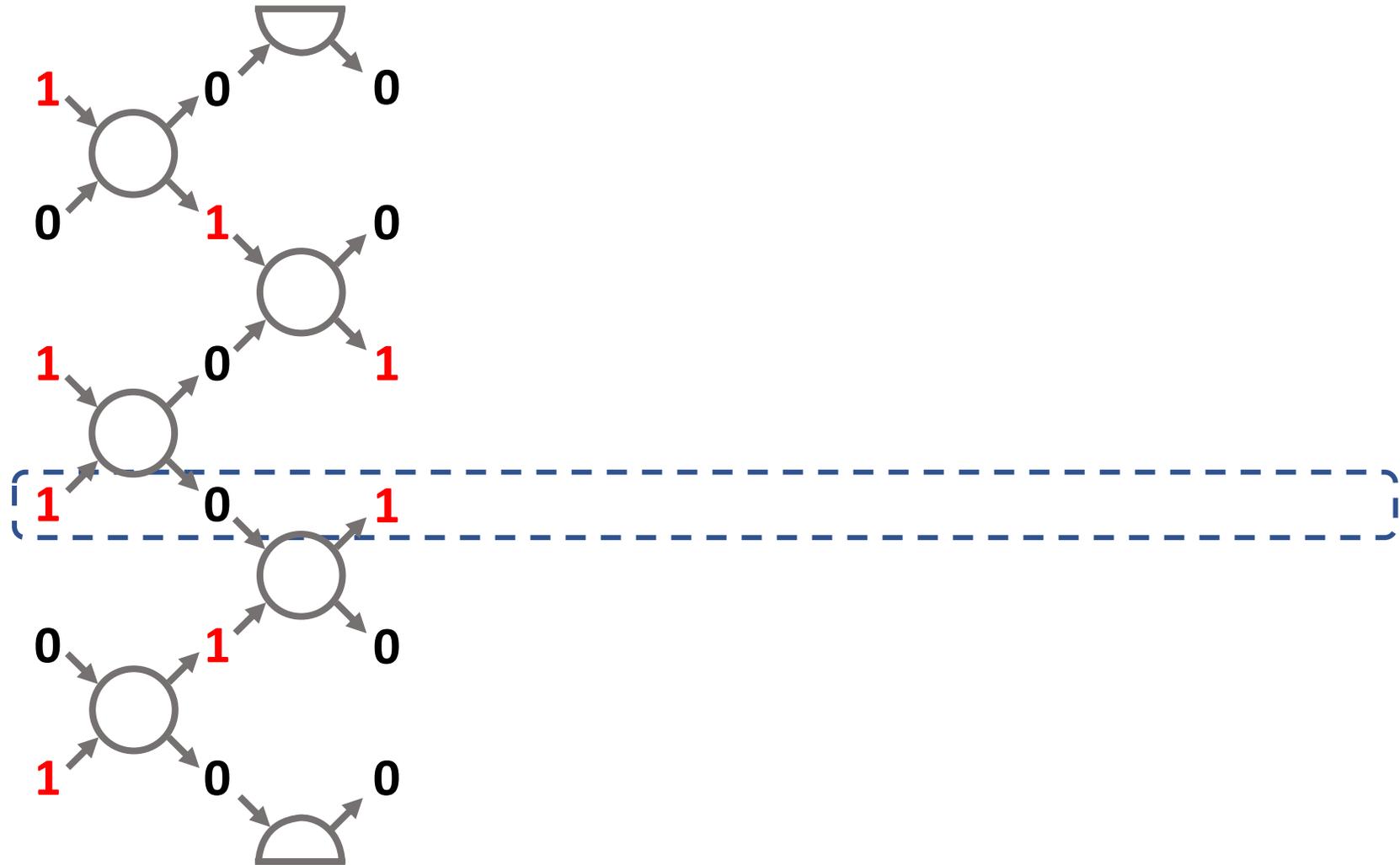
0

1

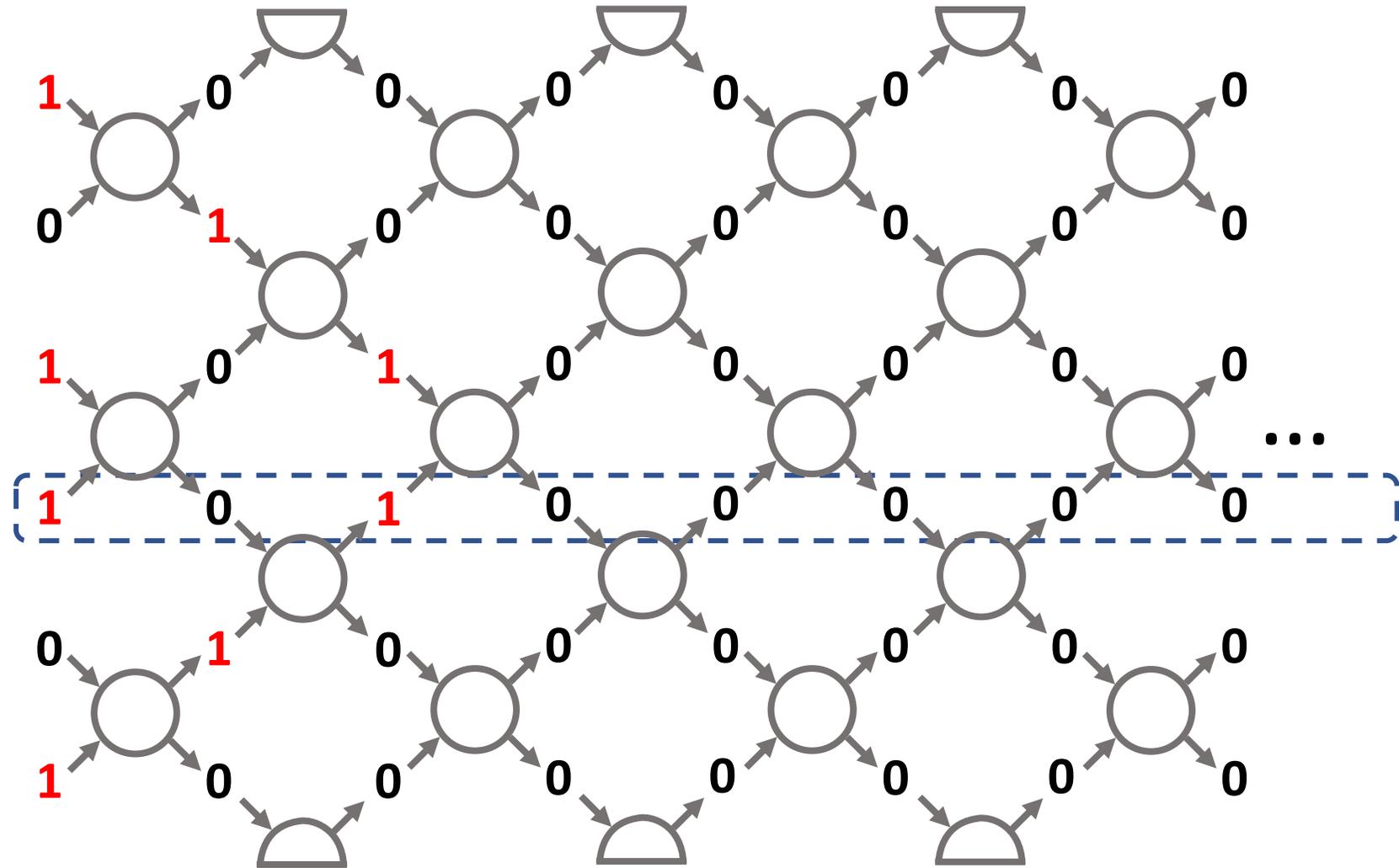
Parity



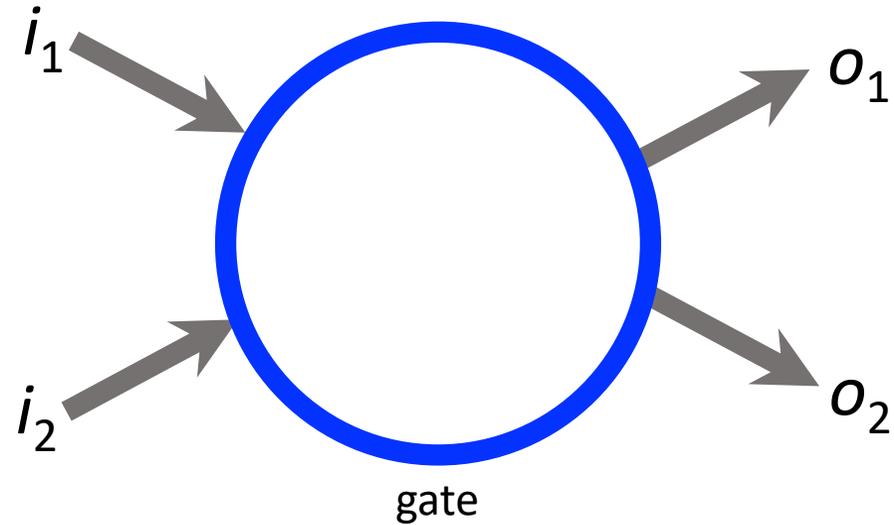
Parity



Parity

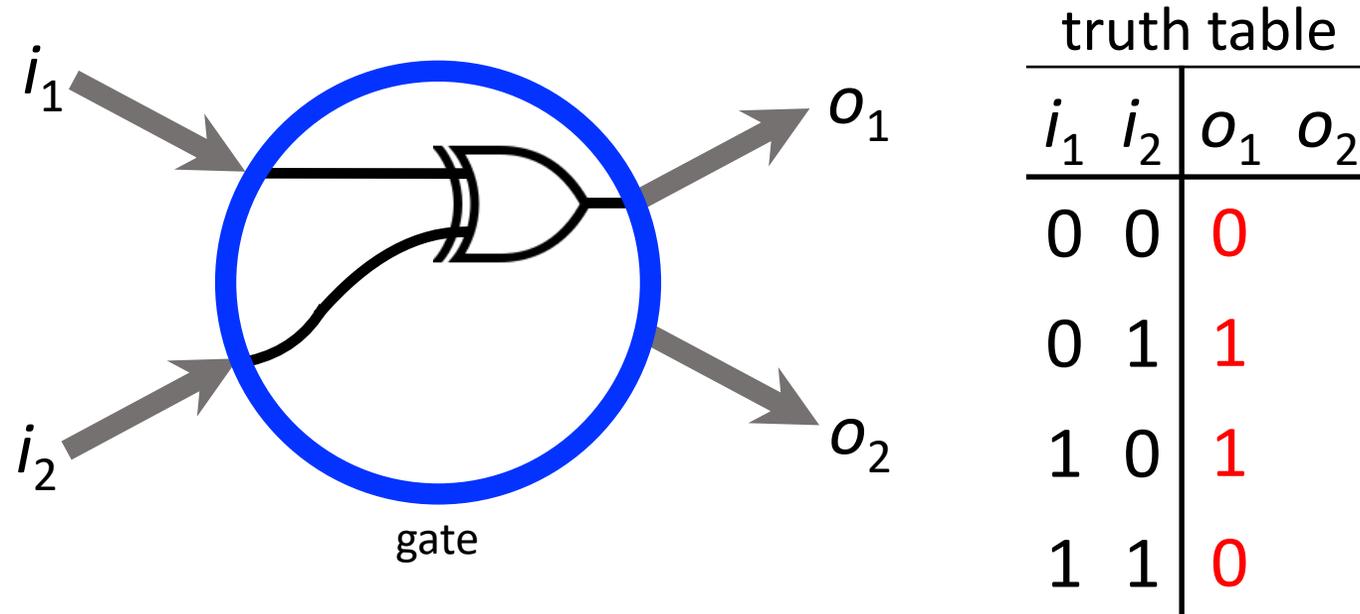


Circuit model



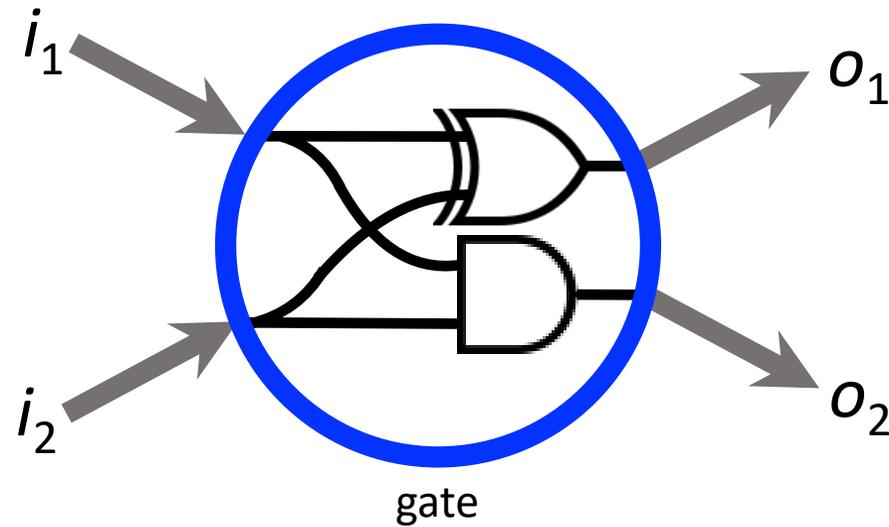
gate: function with two input bits i_1, i_2
and two output bits o_1, o_2

Circuit model



gate: function with two input bits i_1, i_2
and two output bits o_1, o_2

Circuit model

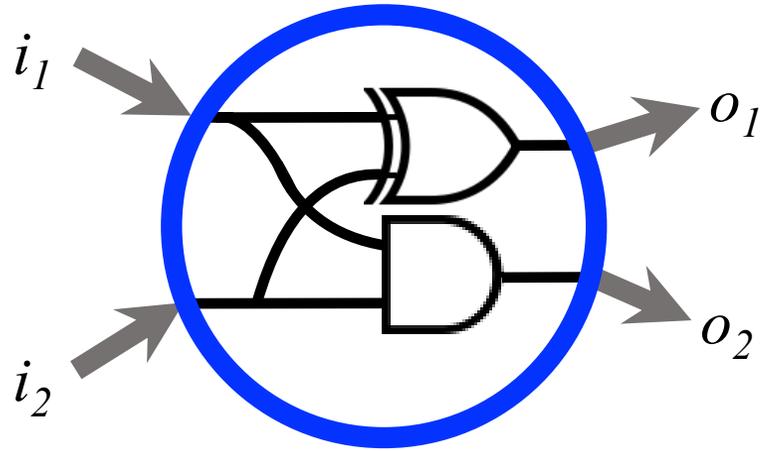


truth table

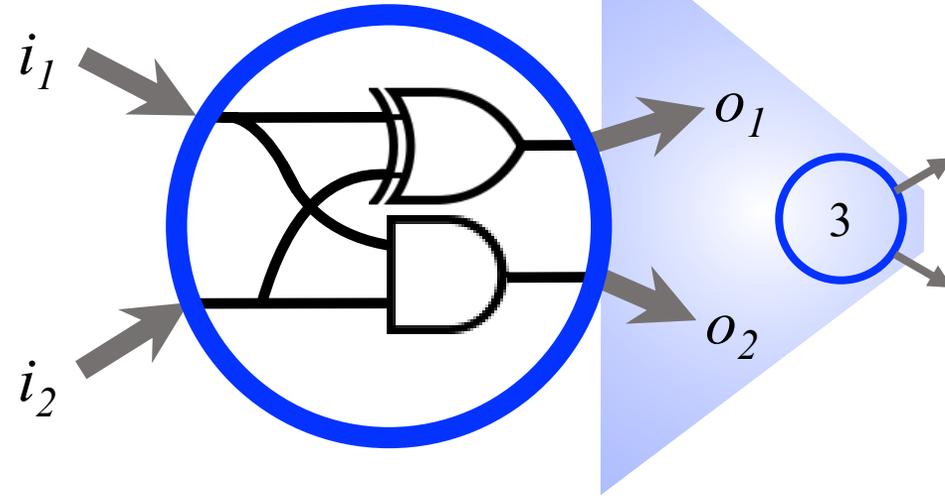
i_1	i_2	o_1	o_2
0	0	0	0
0	1	1	0
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	1

gate: function with two input bits i_1, i_2
and two output bits o_1, o_2

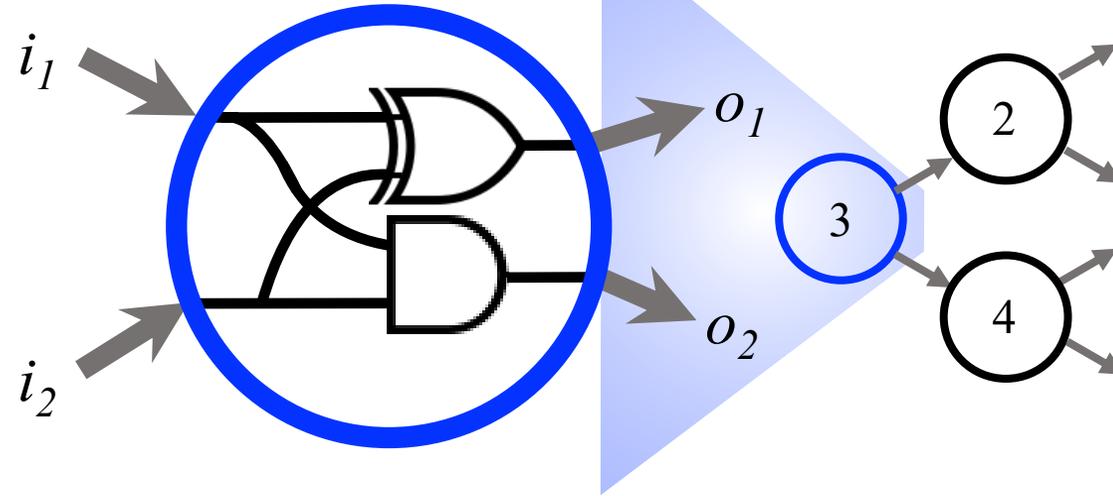
Circuit model



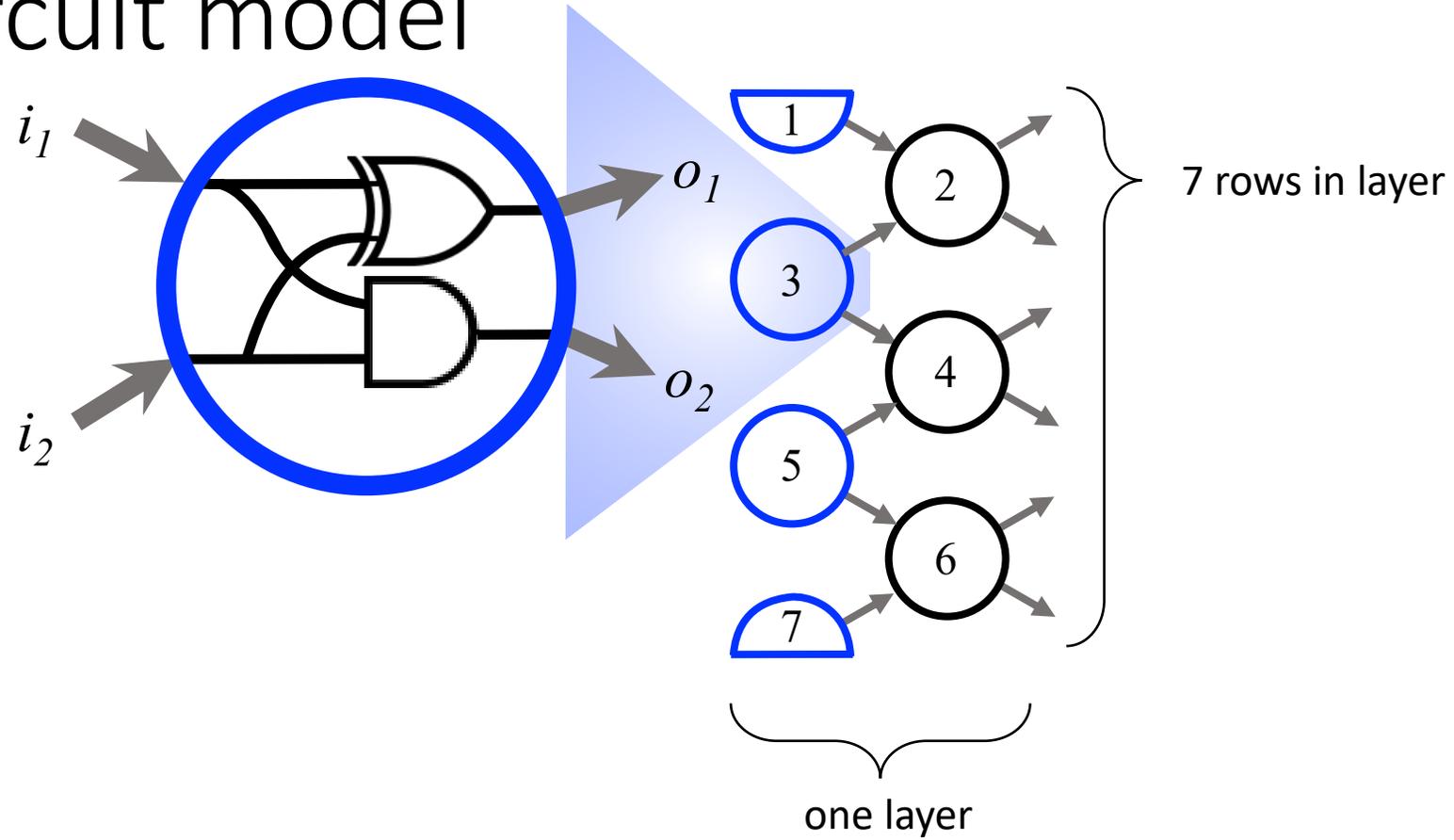
Circuit model



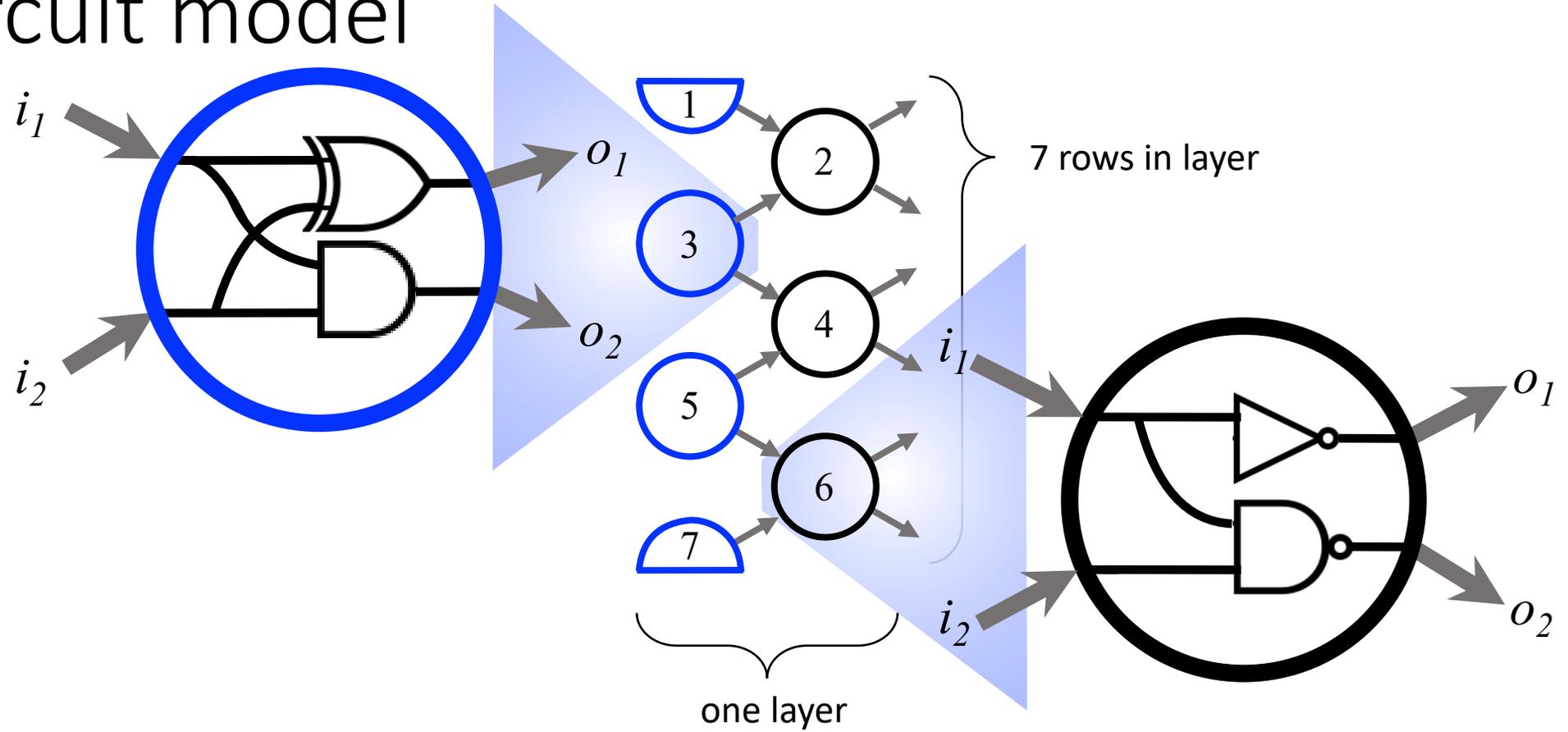
Circuit model



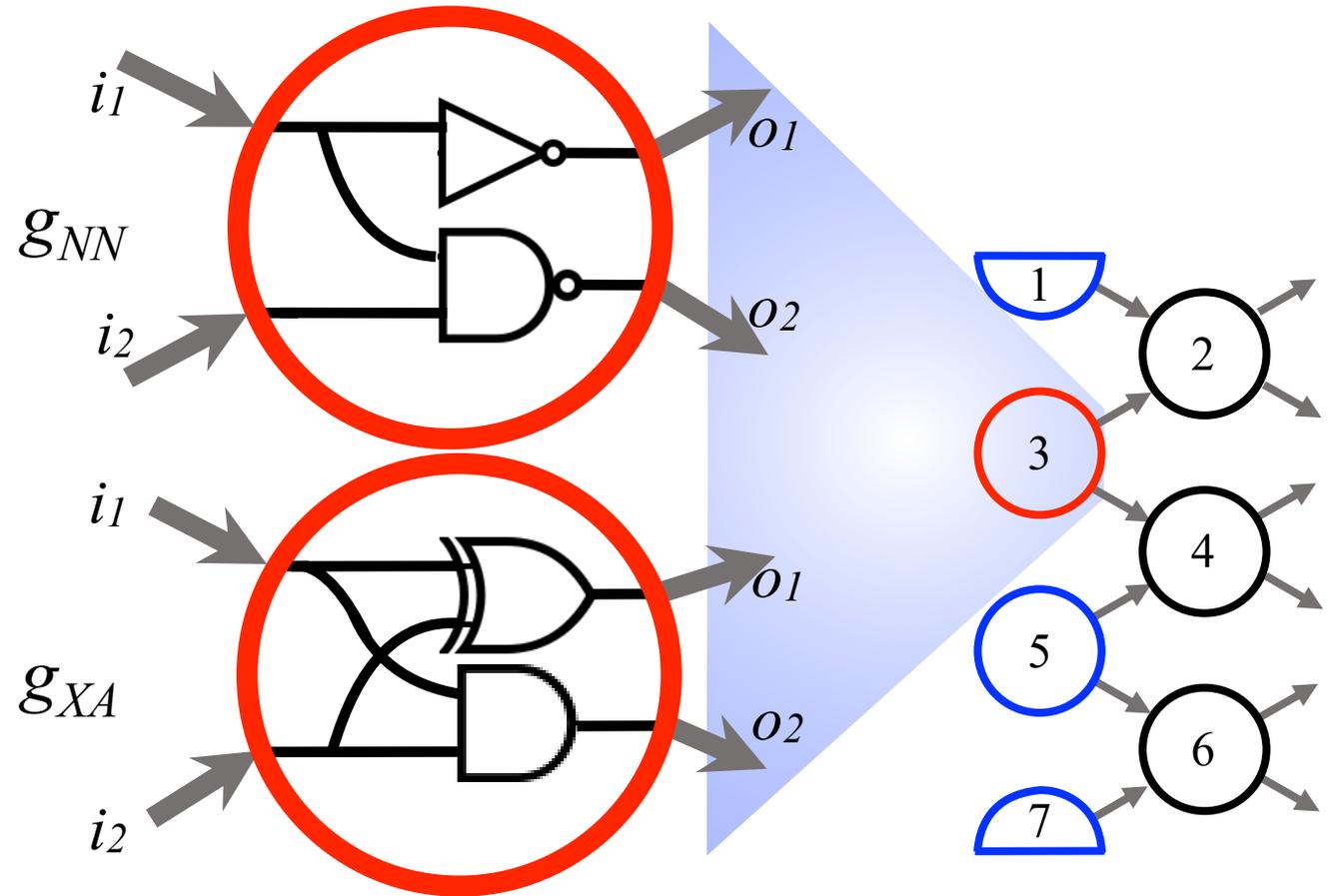
Circuit model



Circuit model



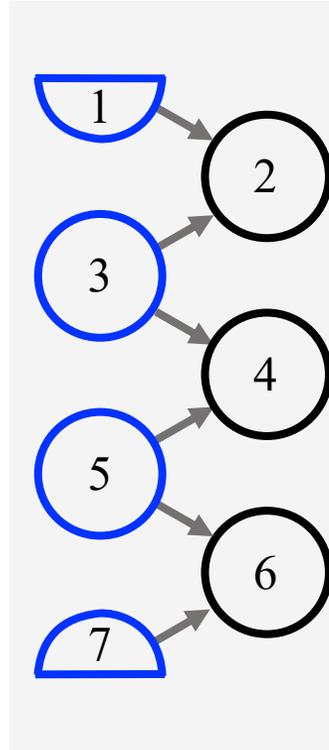
Circuit model



Randomization: Each row may be assigned ≥ 2 gates, with associated probabilities, e.g., $\Pr[g_{NN}] = \Pr[g_{XA}] = \frac{1}{2}$

Circuit model

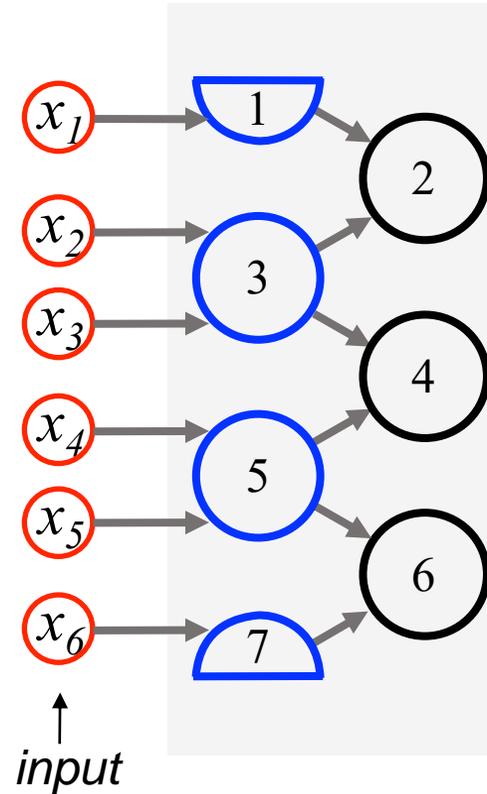
Programmer specifies layer:
gates to go in each row



Circuit model

Programmer specifies layer:
gates to go in each row

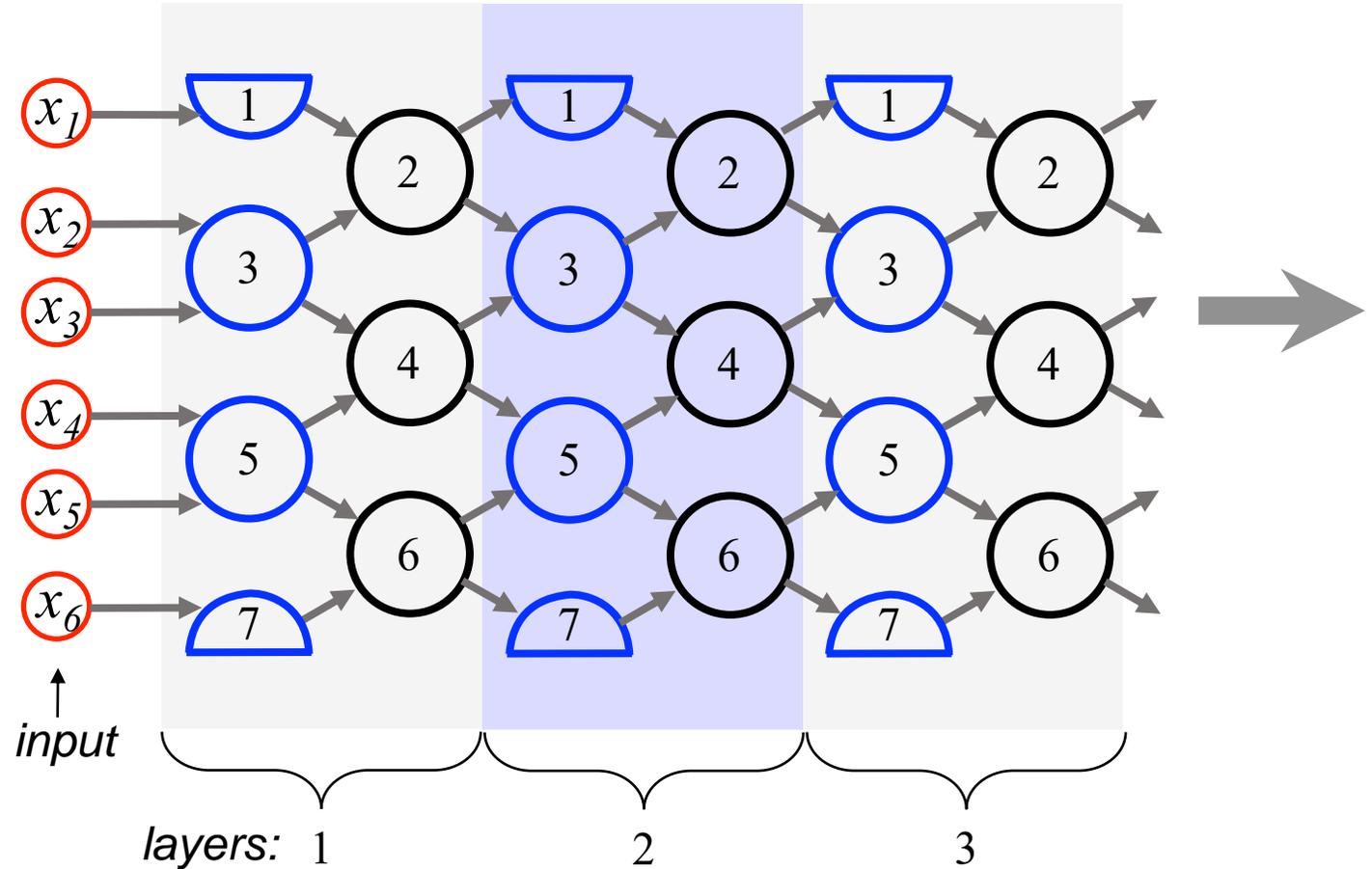
User gives n input bits



Circuit model

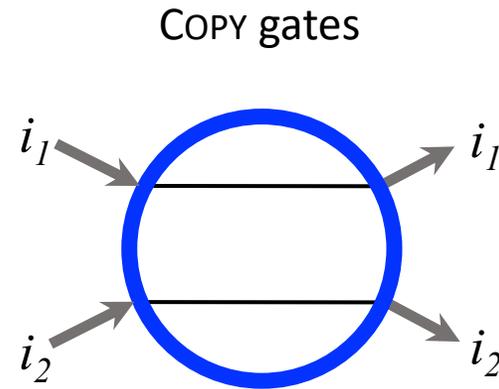
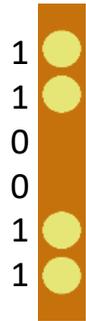
Programmer specifies layer:
gates to go in each row

User gives n input bits

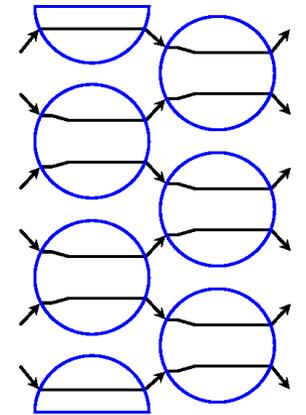


Example circuits with same gate in every row

COPY

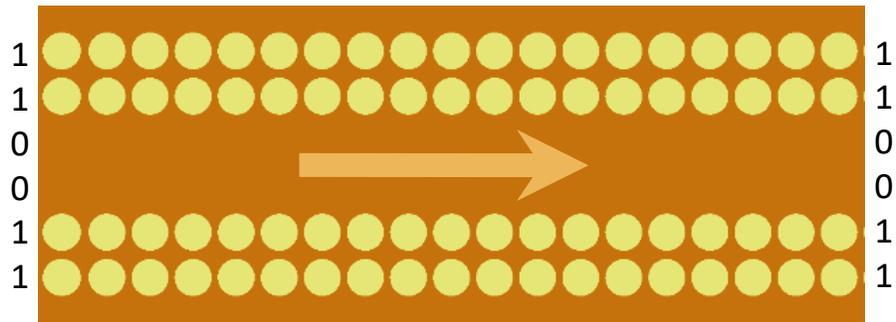


i_1	i_2	o_1	o_2
0	0	0	0
0	1	0	1
1	0	1	0
1	1	1	1

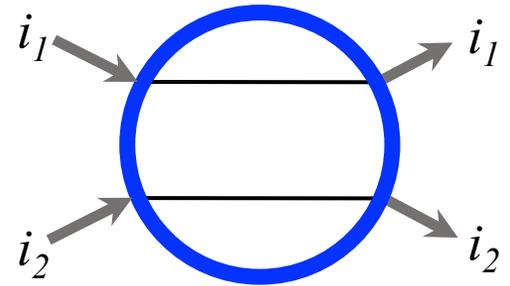


Example circuits with same gate in every row

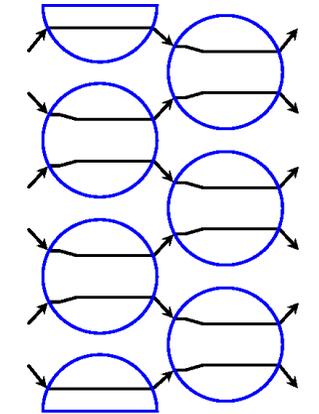
COPY



COPY gates

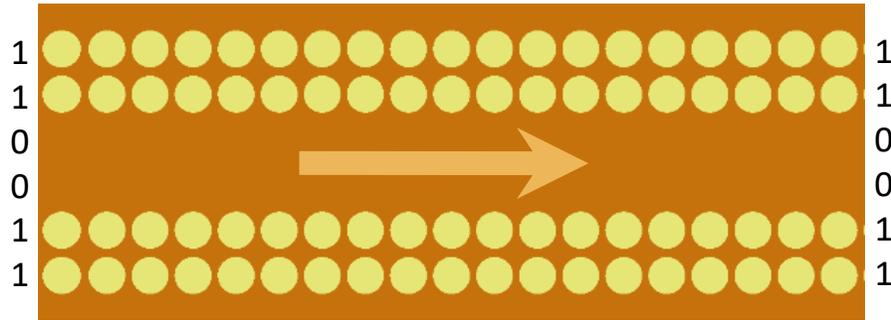


i_1	i_2	o_1	o_2
0	0	0	0
0	1	0	1
1	0	1	0
1	1	1	1

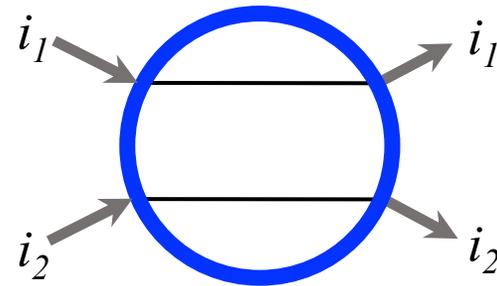


Example circuits with same gate in every row

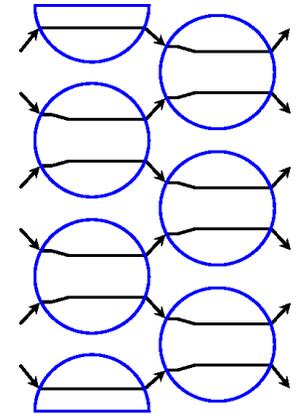
COPY



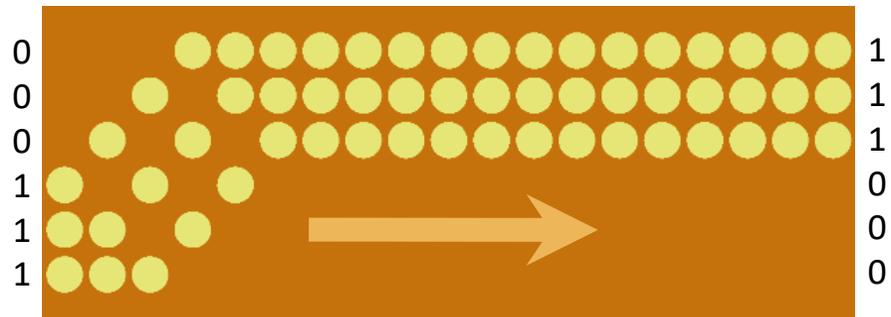
COPY gates



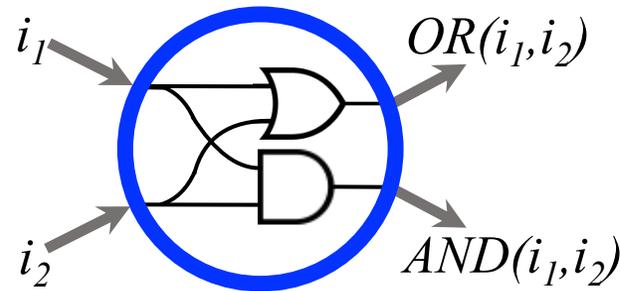
i_1	i_2	o_1	o_2
0	0	0	0
0	1	0	1
1	0	1	0
1	1	1	1



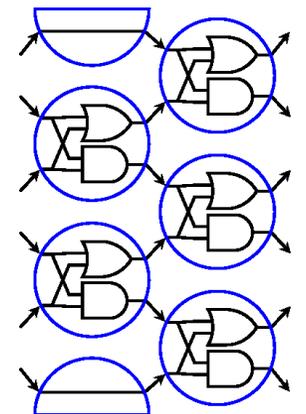
SORTING



SORTING gates

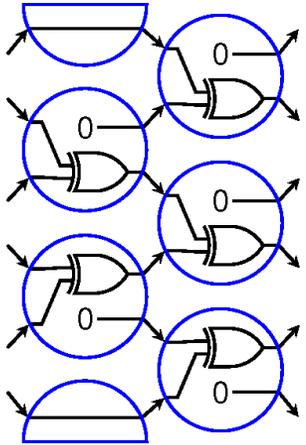


i_1	i_2	o_1	o_2
0	0	0	0
0	1	1	0
1	0	1	0
1	1	1	1



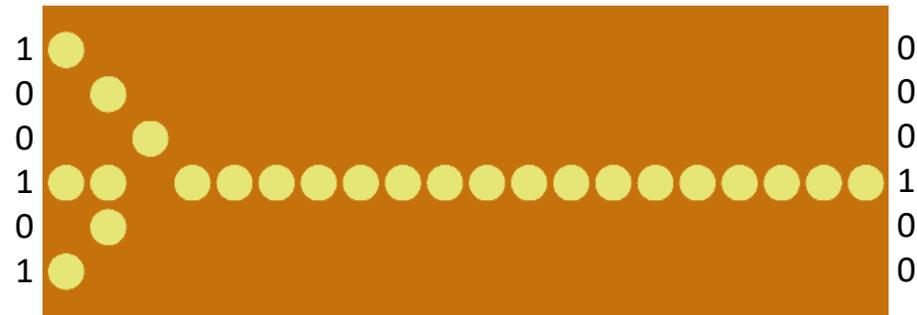
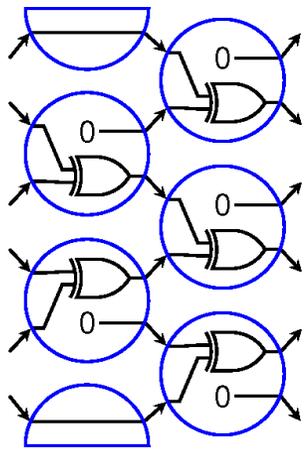
Example circuits with different gates in each row

PARITY



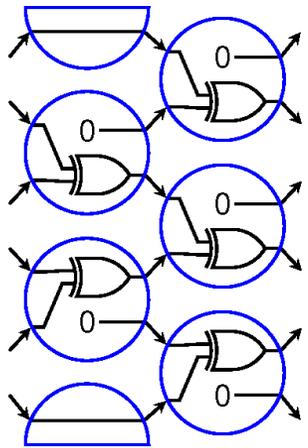
Example circuits with different gates in each row

PARITY



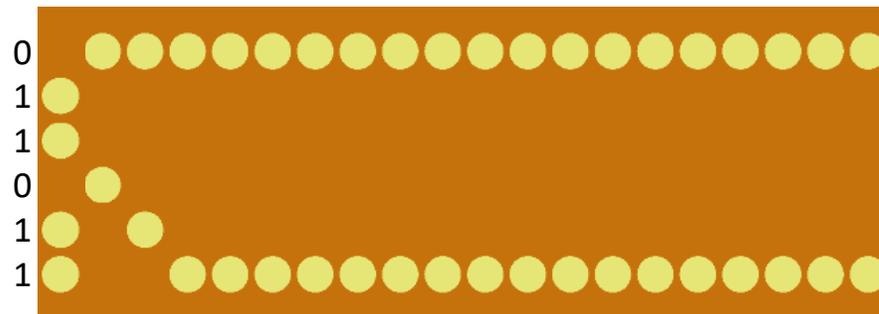
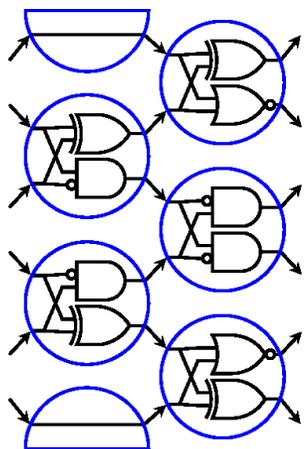
Example circuits with different gates in each row

PARITY



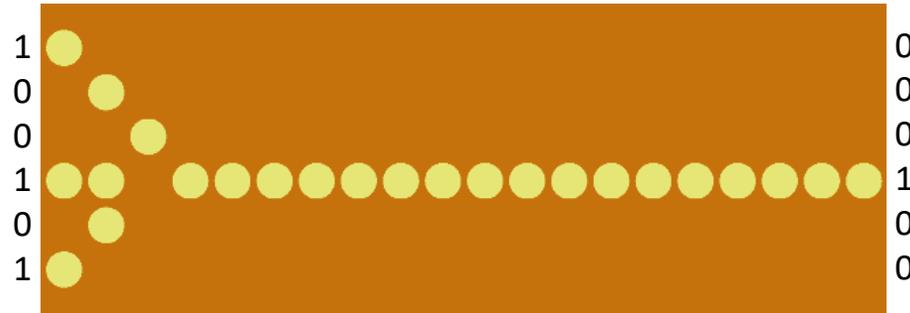
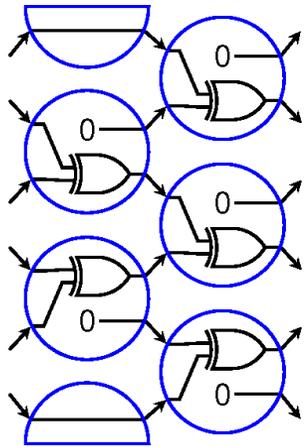
MULTIPLEOF3

$$011011_2 = 27_{10} = 3 \cdot 9$$

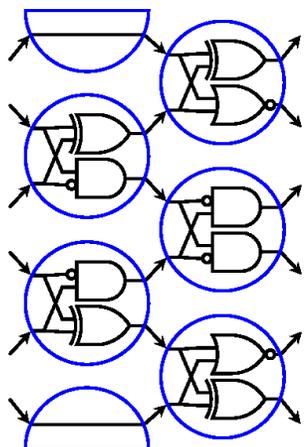


Example circuits with different gates in each row

PARITY



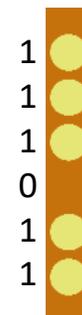
MULTIPLEOF3



$$011011_2 = 27_{10} = 3 \cdot 9$$

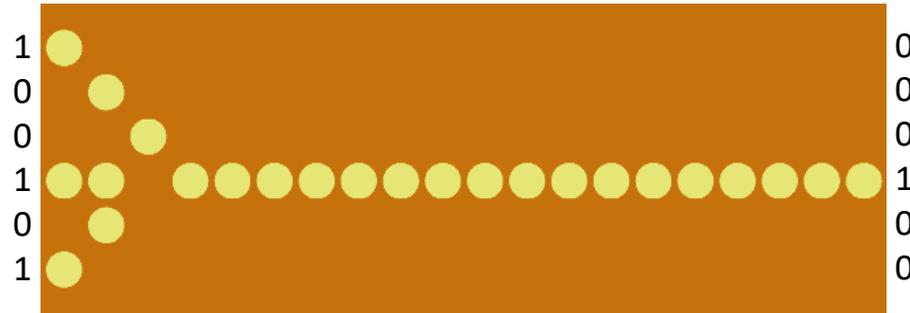
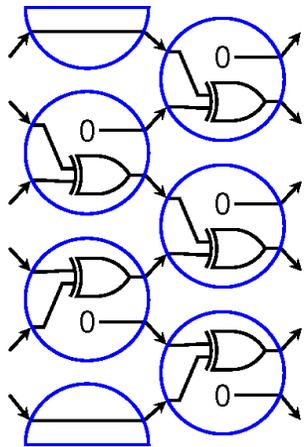


$$111011_2$$

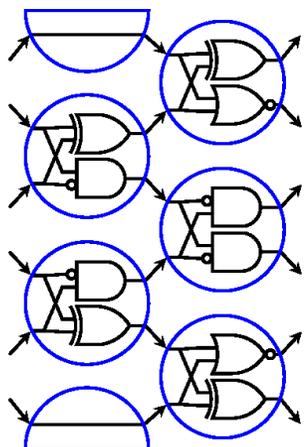


Example circuits with different gates in each row

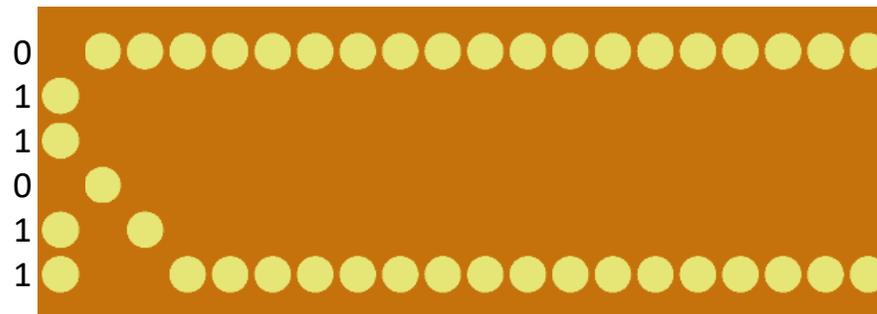
PARITY



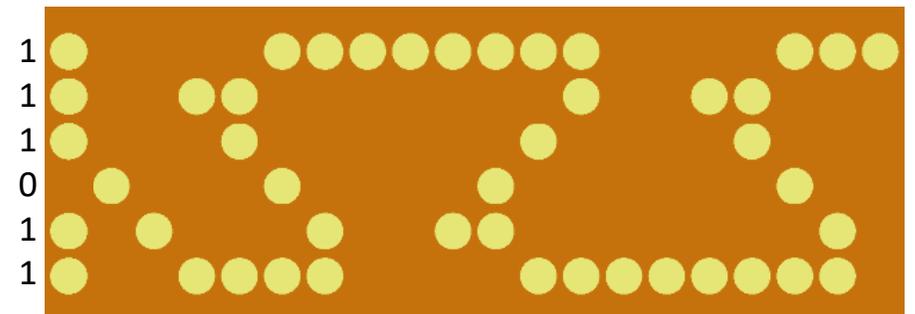
MULTIPLEOF3



$$011011_2 = 27_{10} = 3 \cdot 9$$

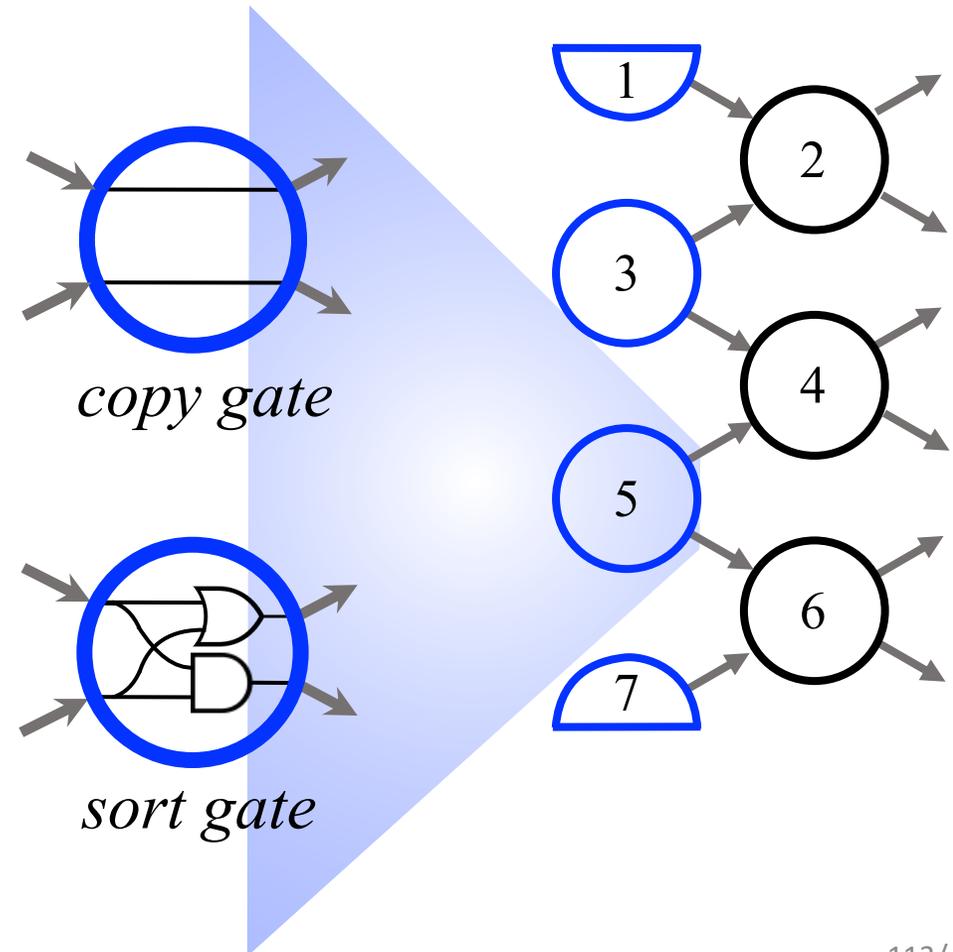


$$111011_2 = 59_{10} = 3 \cdot 19 + 2$$

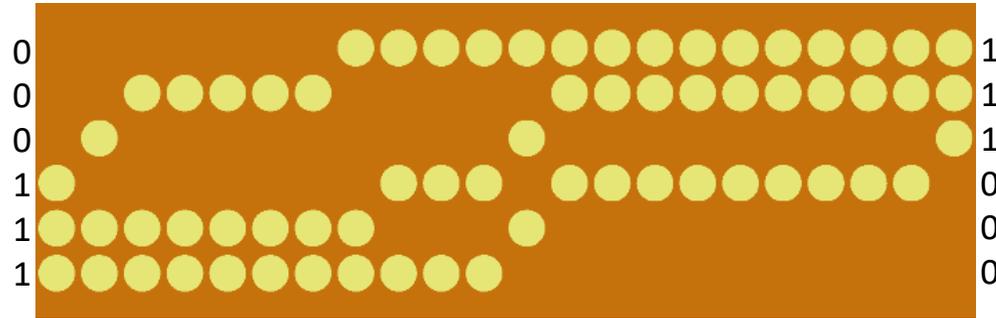


Randomization: “Lazy” sorting

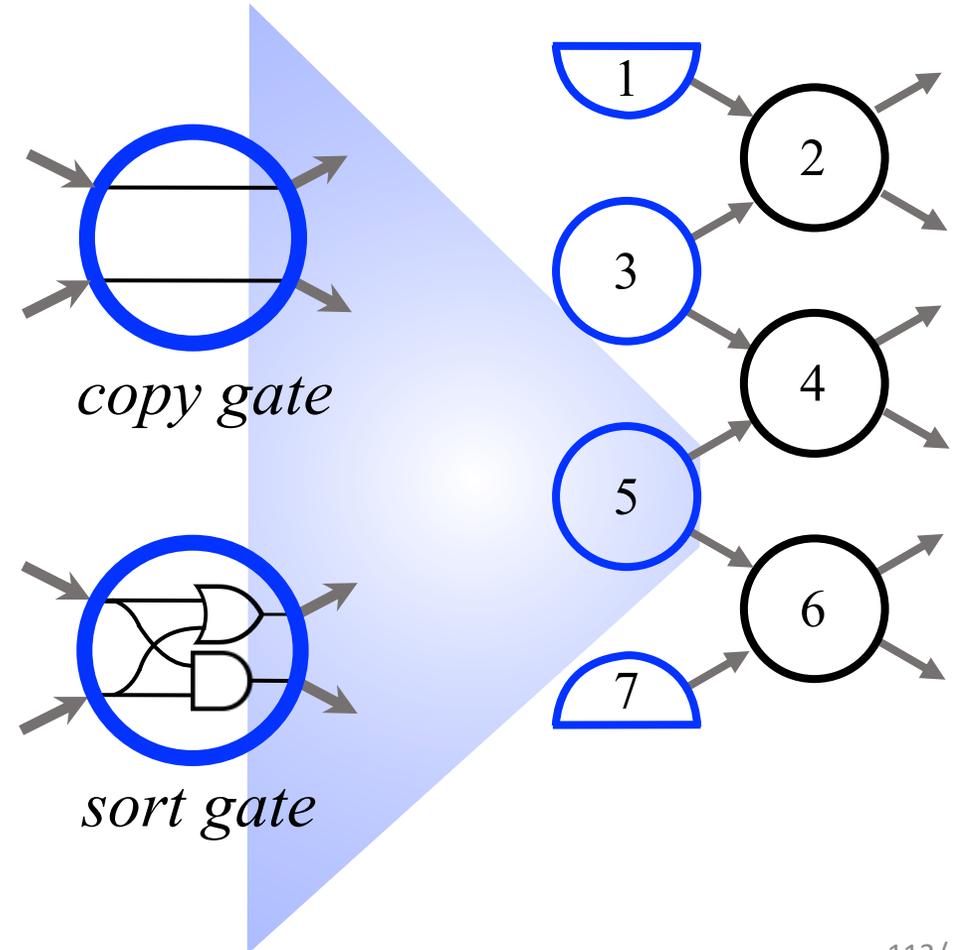
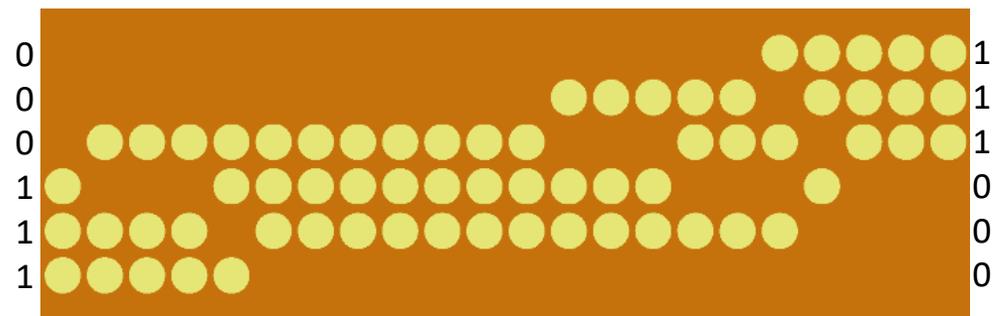
If 1 and 0 out of order, flip a coin to decide whether to swap them.



Randomization: “Lazy” sorting

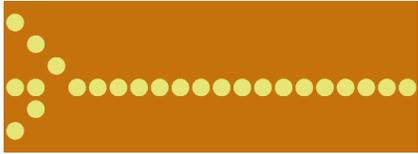


If 1 and 0 out of order, flip a coin to decide whether to swap them.

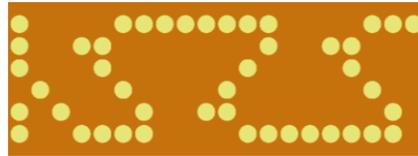


Deterministic circuits

PARITY



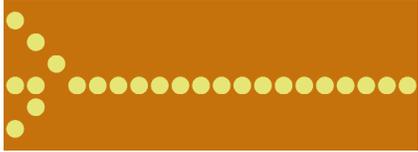
MULTIPLEOF3



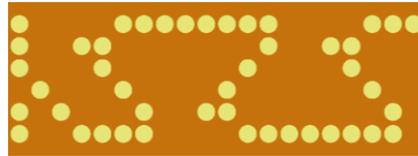
answer yes/no question

Deterministic circuits

PARITY



MULTIPLEOF3



PALINDROME



yes

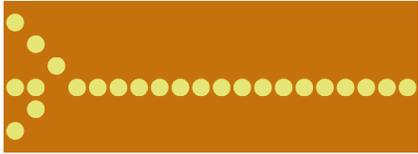


no

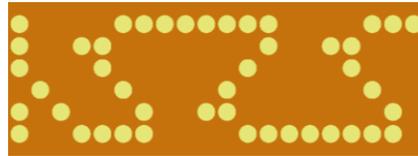
answer yes/no question

Deterministic circuits

PARITY



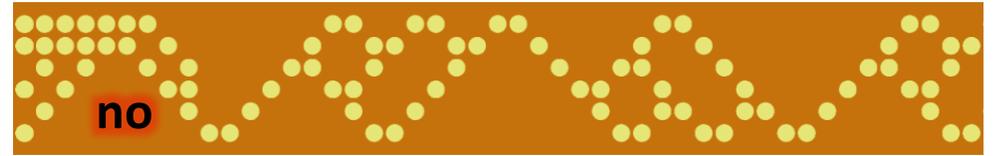
MULTIPLEOF3



PALINDROME

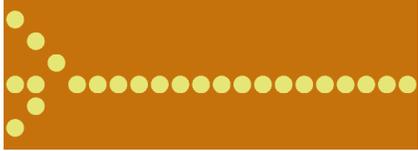


answer yes/no question

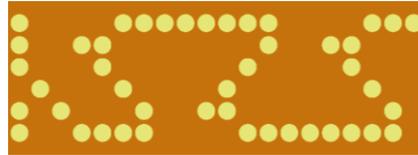
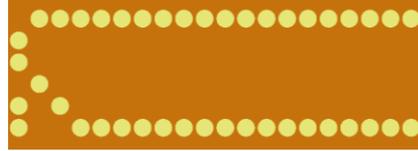


Deterministic circuits

PARITY



MULTIPLEOF3



PALINDROME

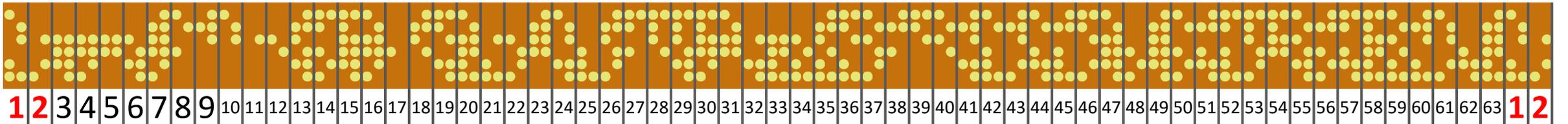


answer yes/no question



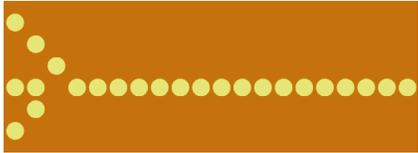
CYCLE63

“count” as high as possible

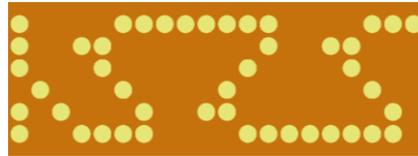


Deterministic circuits

PARITY



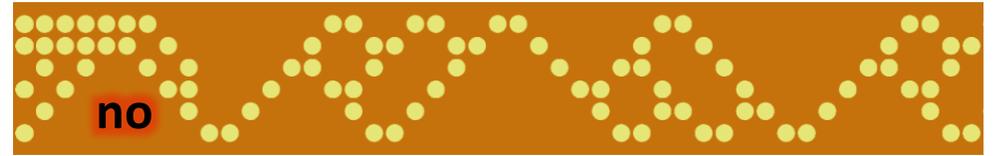
MULTIPLEOF3



PALINDROME

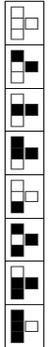
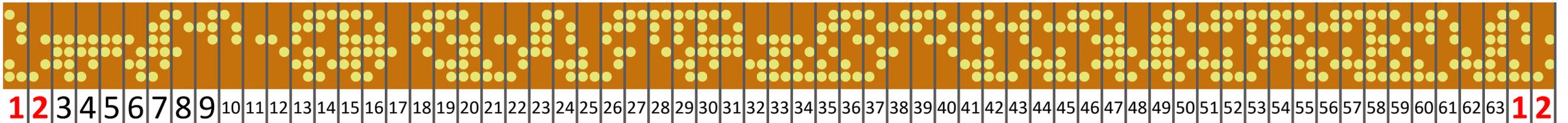


answer yes/no question



CYCLE63

“count” as high as possible

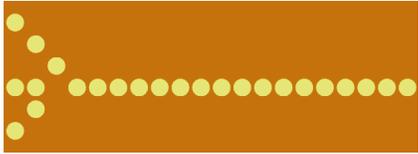


RULE110

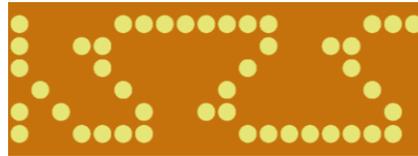
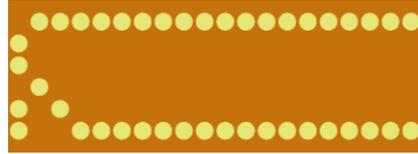
simulate cellular automata

Deterministic circuits

PARITY



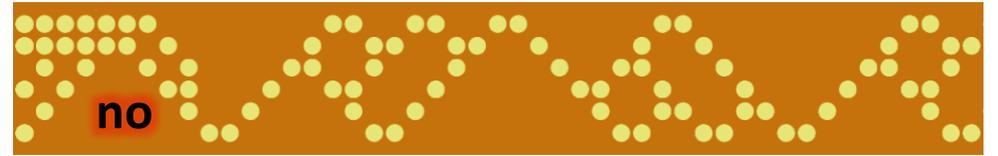
MULTIPLEOF3



PALINDROME

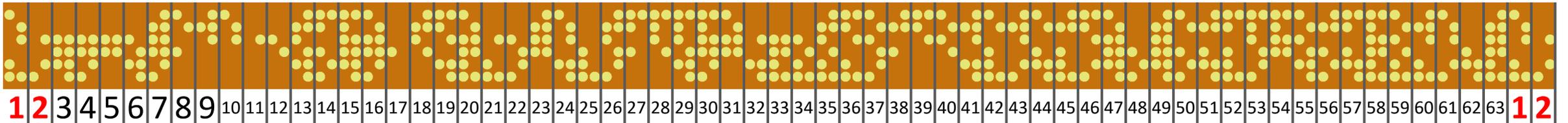


answer yes/no question



CYCLE63

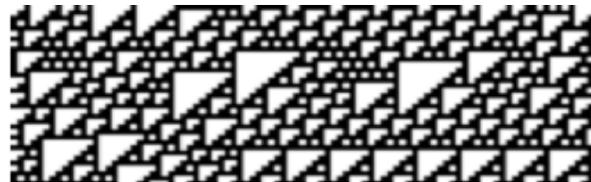
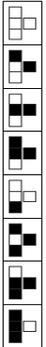
“count” as high as possible



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 1 2

RULE110

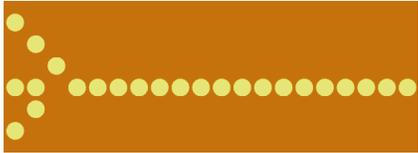
simulate cellular automata



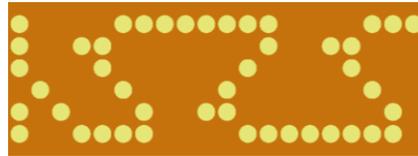
time →

Deterministic circuits

PARITY



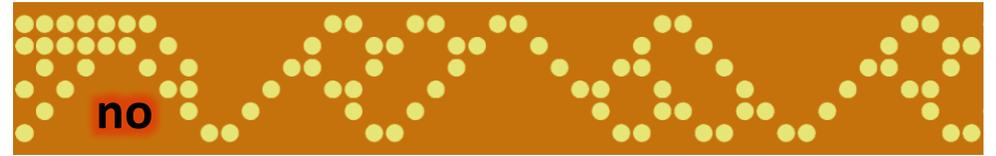
MULTIPLEOF3



PALINDROME

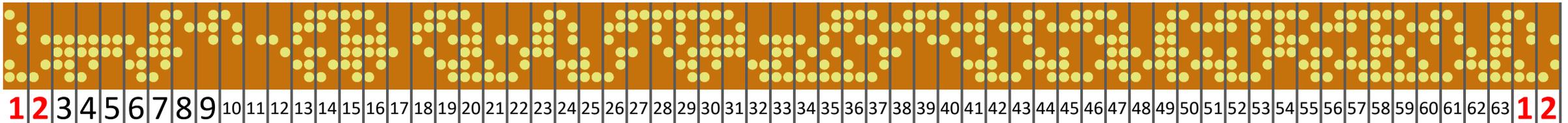


answer yes/no question



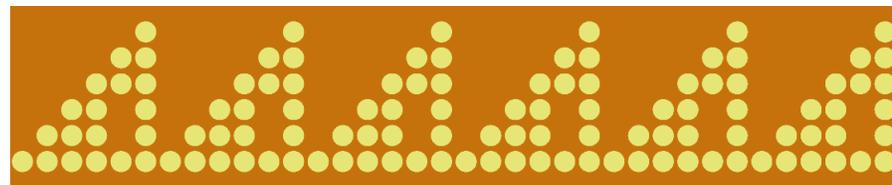
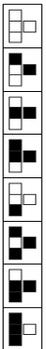
CYCLE63

“count” as high as possible



RULE110

simulate cellular automata



Theorem: Rule 110 can efficiently execute any algorithm.

[Cook, Complex Systems 2004]

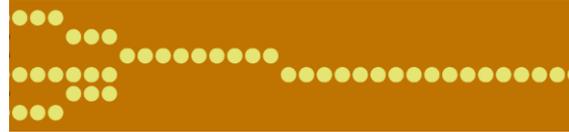
[Neary, Woods, ICALP 2006]

Randomized circuits

LAZYPARITY

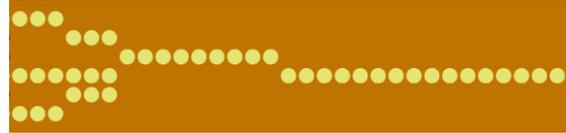
Randomized circuits

LAZYPARITY



Randomized circuits

LAZYPARITY

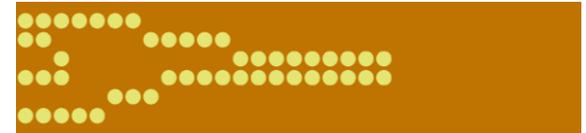
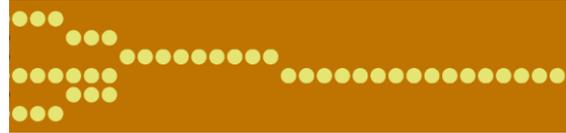


RANDOMWALKINGBIT



Randomized circuits

LAZYPARITY



RANDOMWALKINGBIT

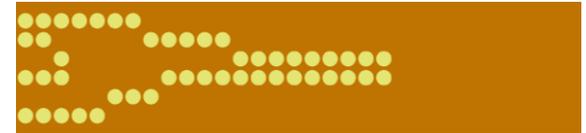
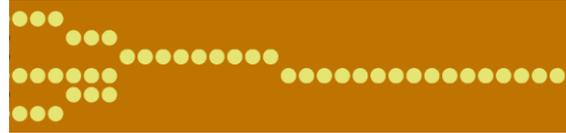


DIAMONDSAREFOREVER



Randomized circuits

LAZYPARITY



RANDOMWALKINGBIT

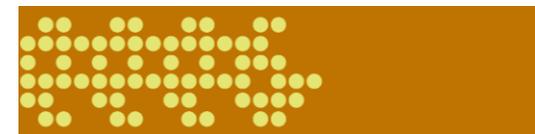
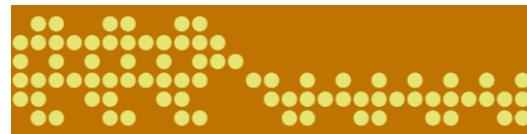


DIAMONDSAREFOREVER



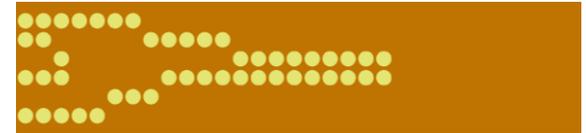
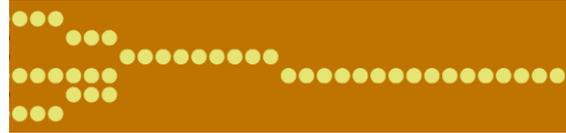
FAIRCOIN

use biased coin to
simulate unbiased coin



Randomized circuits

LAZYPARITY



RANDOMWALKINGBIT



DIAMONDSAREFOREVER

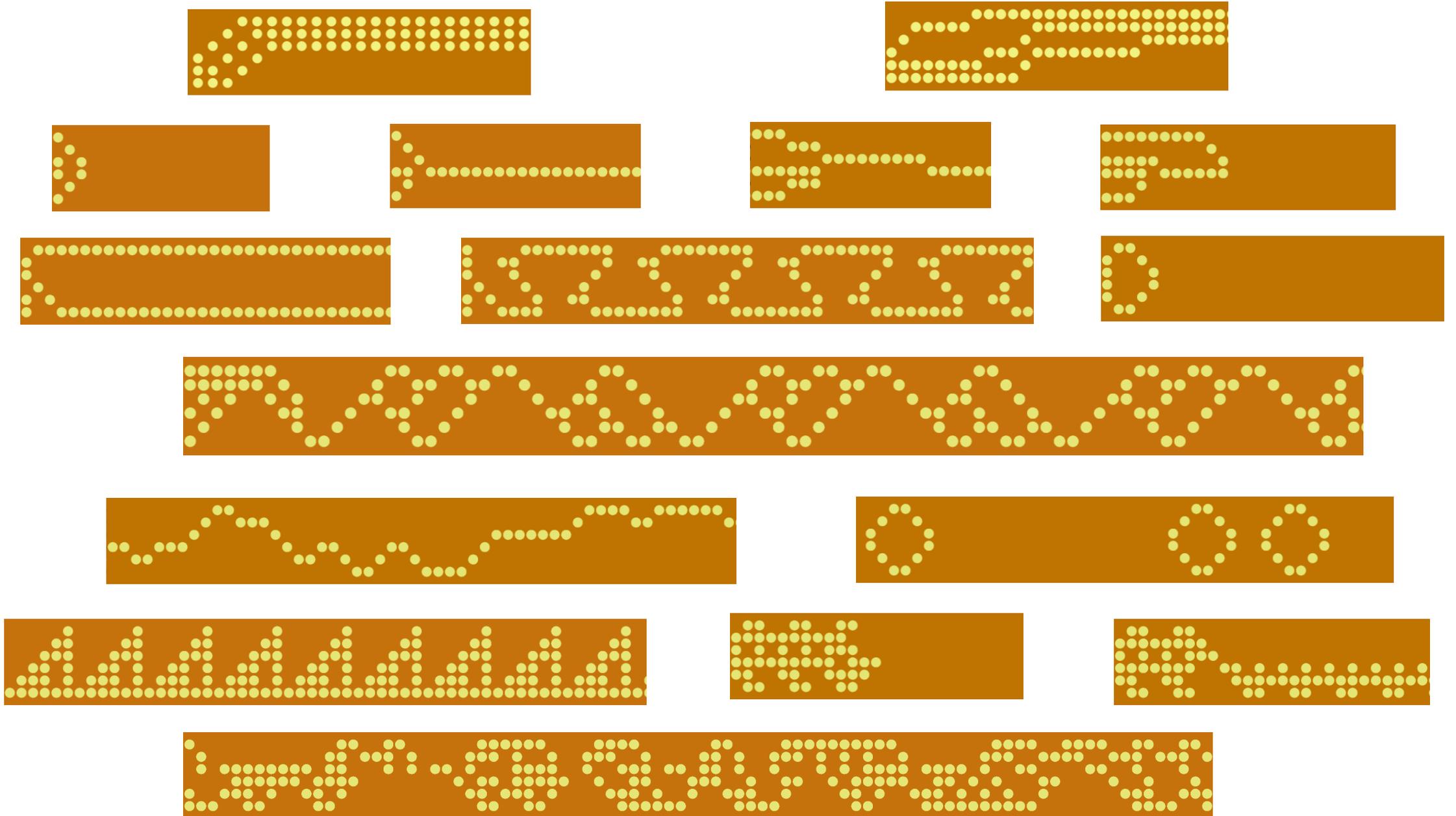


FAIRCOIN

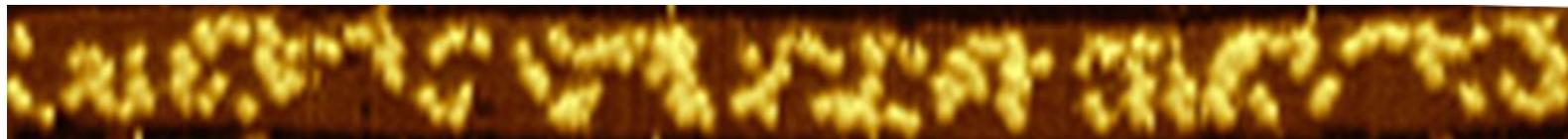
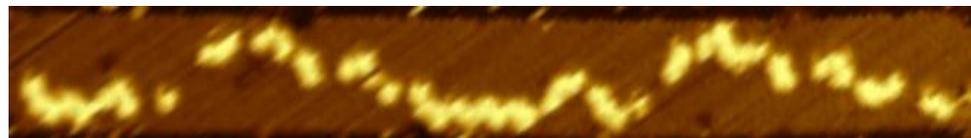
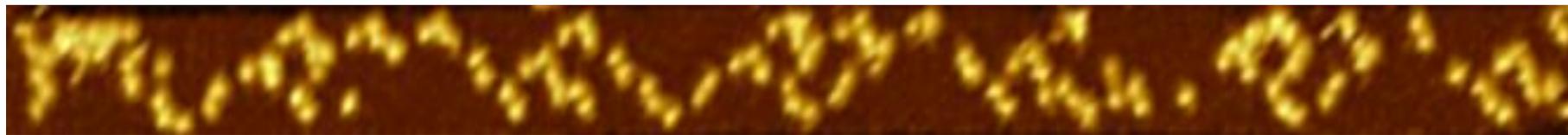
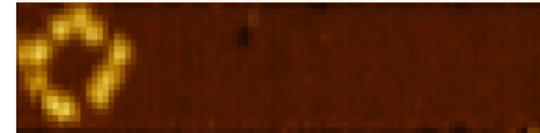
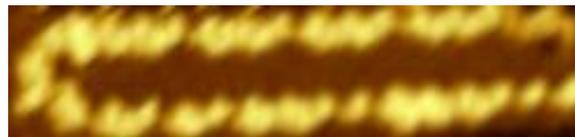
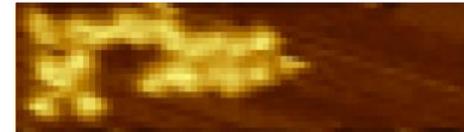
use biased coin to
simulate unbiased coin

$$\Pr \left[\text{circuit diagram} \right] = \Pr \left[\text{circuit diagram} \right] = \frac{1}{2}$$

for **any** (positive) probabilities for the randomized gate



100 nm



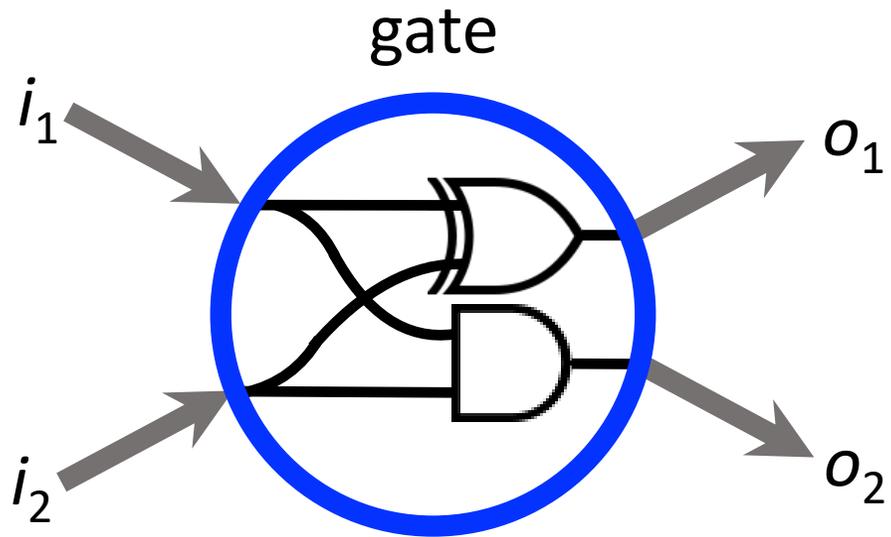
Hierarchy of abstractions

Bits: Boolean circuits compute

→ Tiles: Tile growth implements circuits

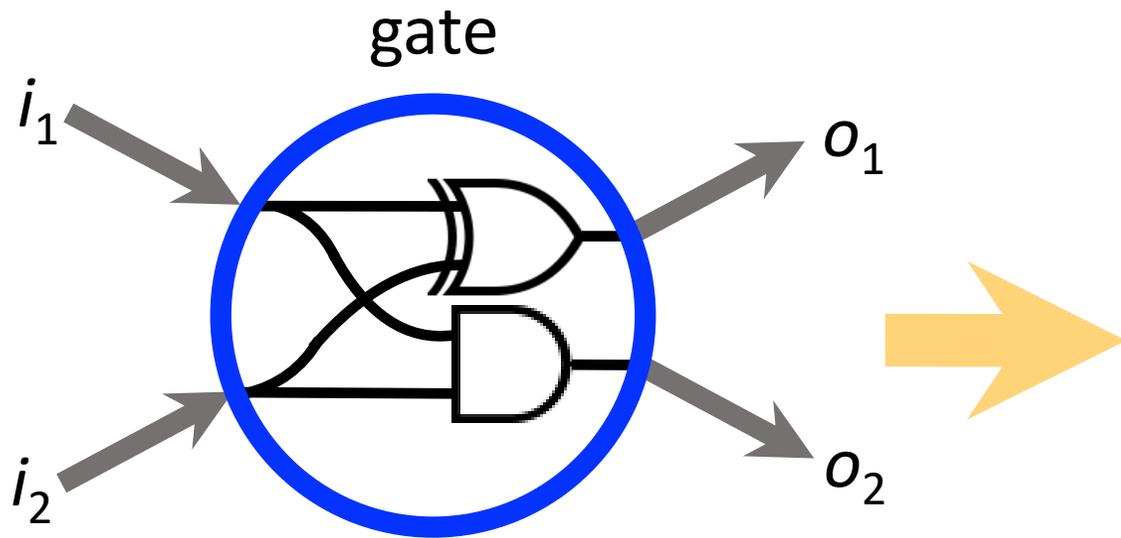
DNA: DNA strands implement tiles

Gates \rightarrow Tiles



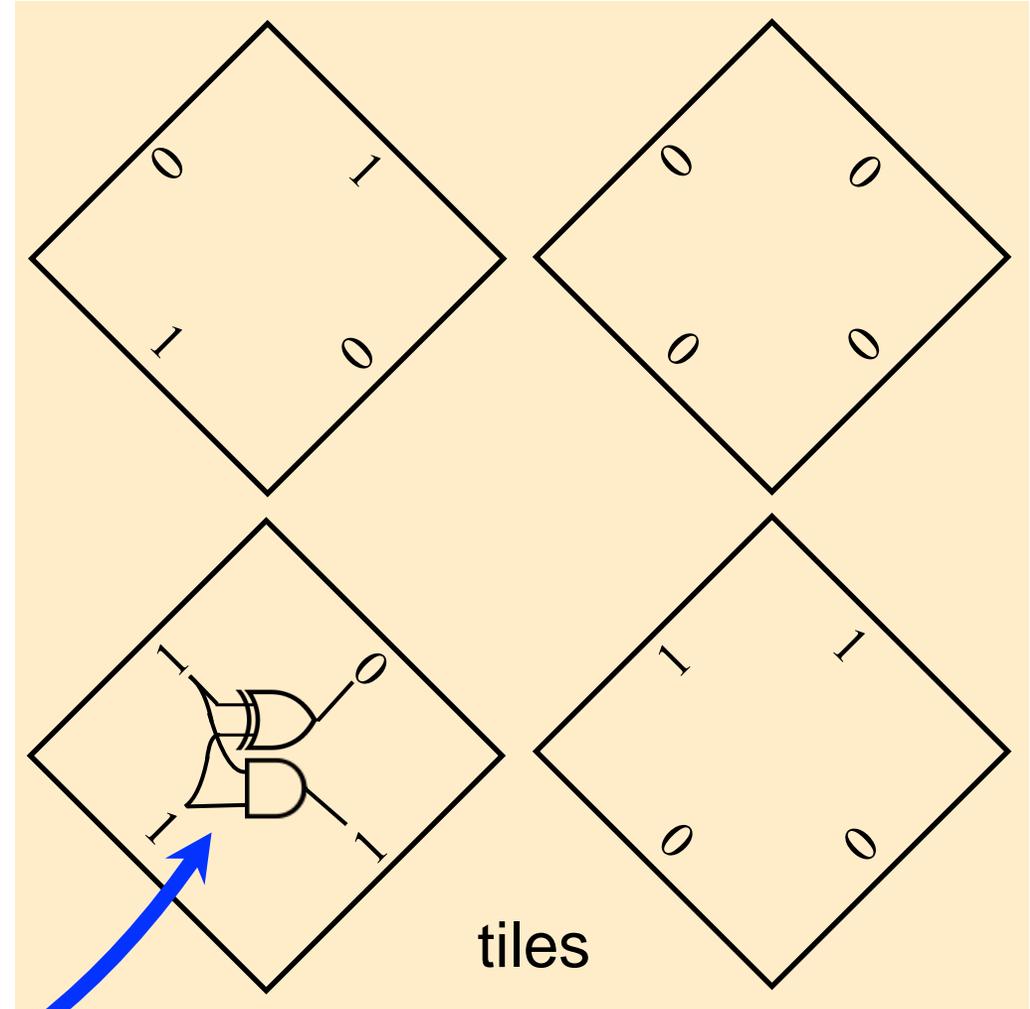
i_1	i_2	o_1	o_2
0	0	0	0
0	1	1	0
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	1

Gates \rightarrow Tiles

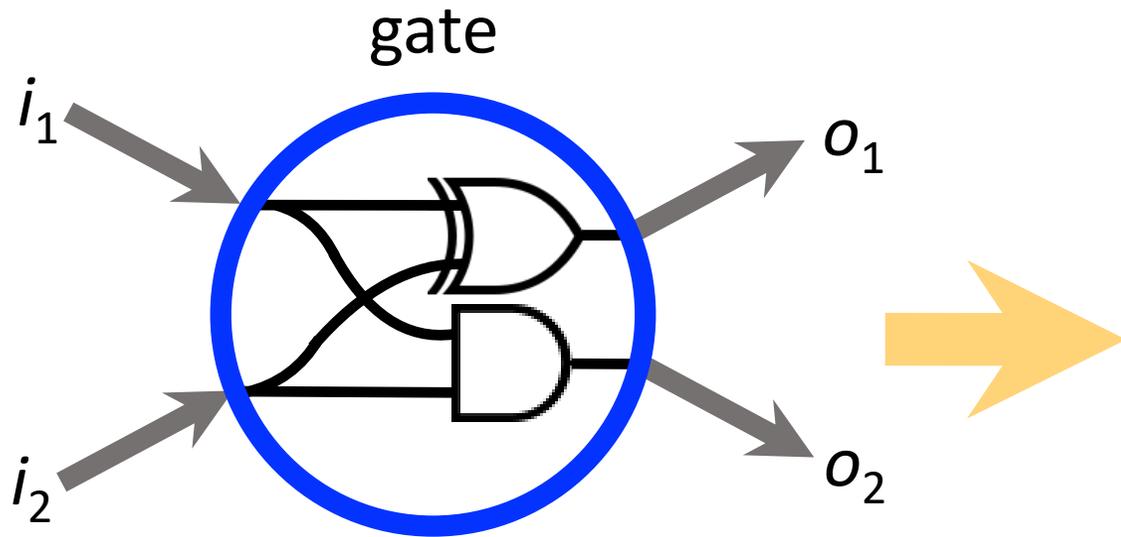


i_1	i_2	o_1	o_2
0	0	0	0
0	1	1	0
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	1

truth table row is encoded by a **tile** with 4 **glues** encoding bits

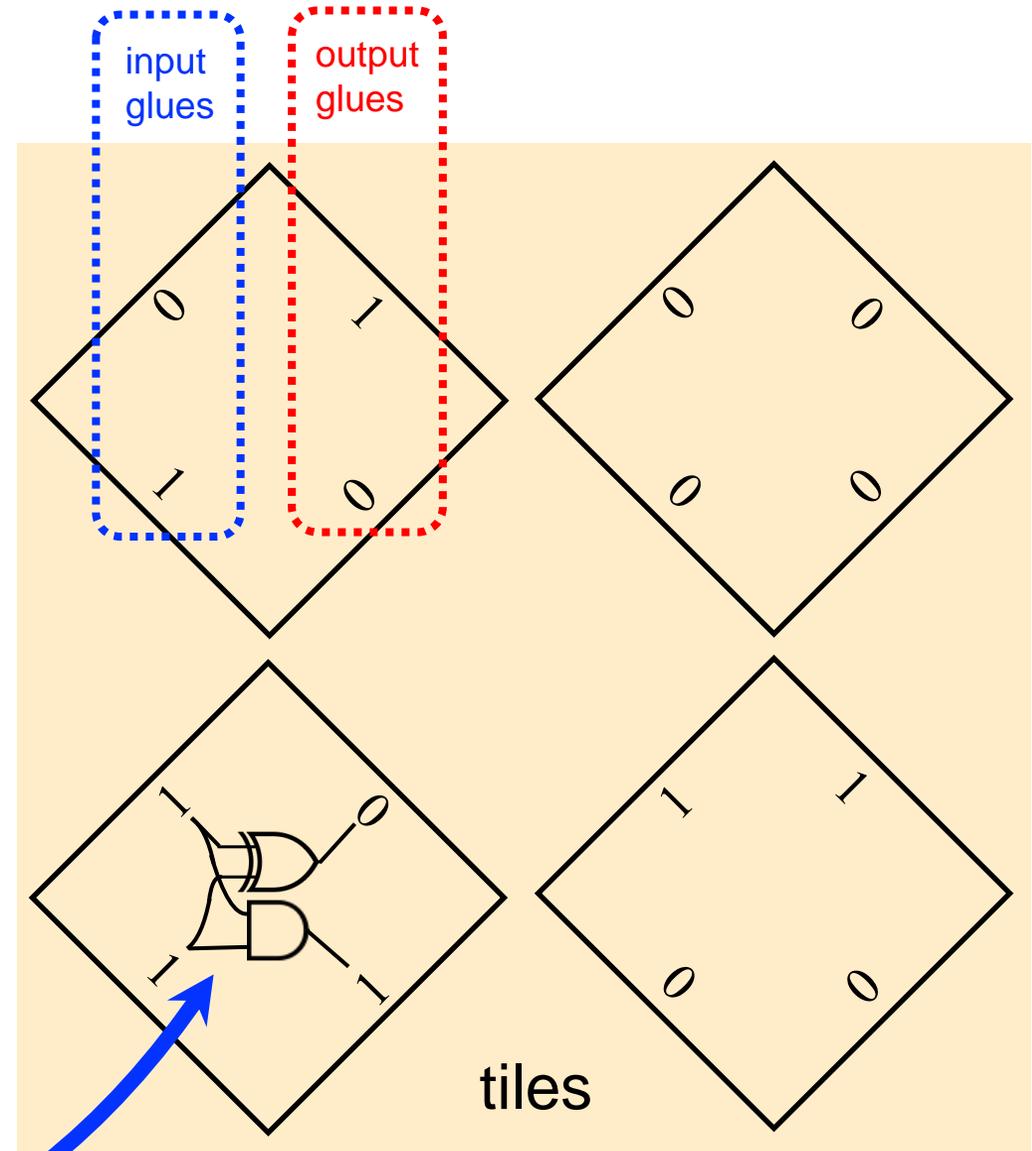


Gates \rightarrow Tiles

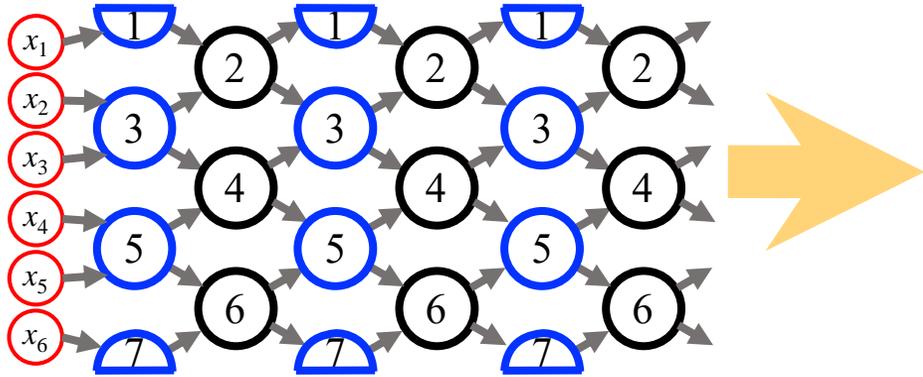


i_1	i_2	o_1	o_2
0	0	0	0
0	1	1	0
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	1

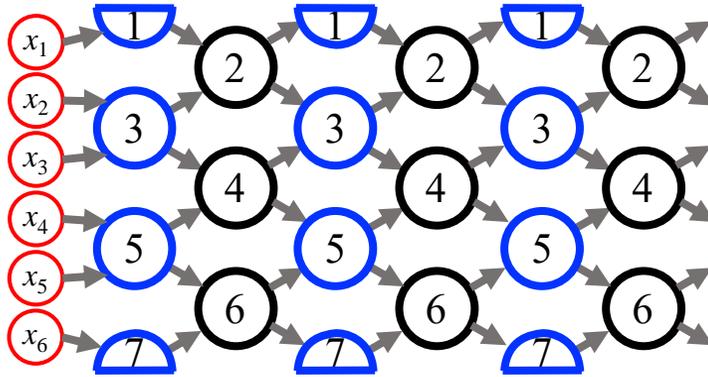
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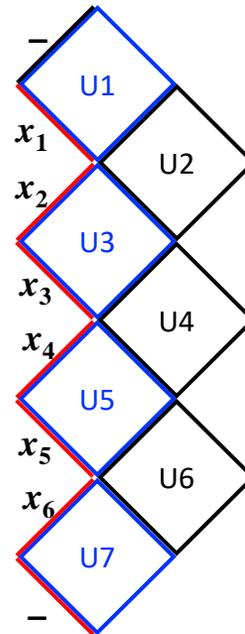
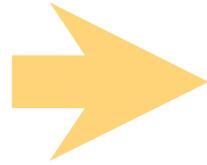
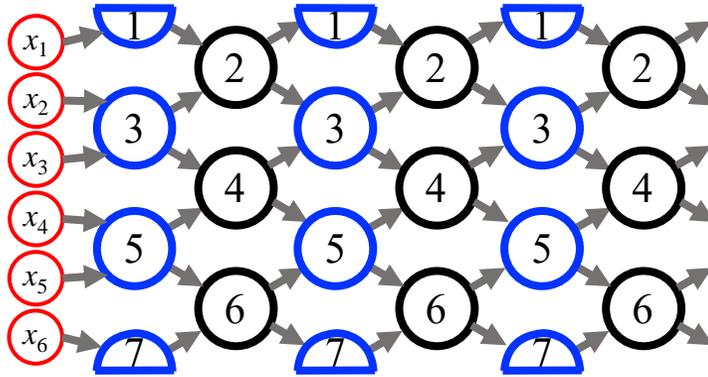
How tiles compute while growing (algorithmic self-assembly)



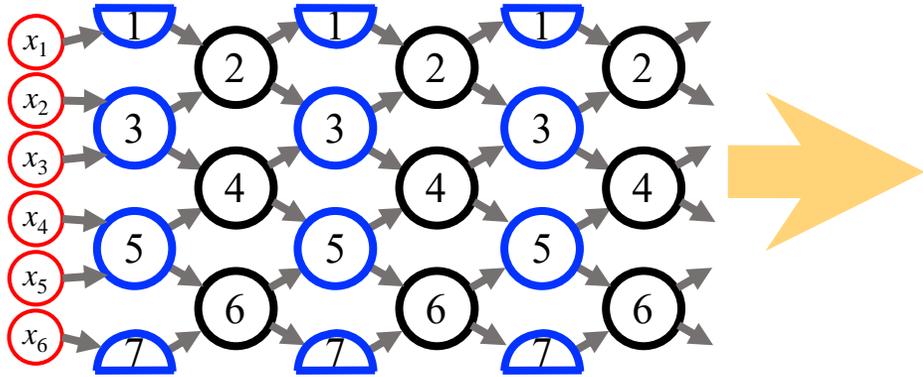
How tiles compute while growing (algorithmic self-assembly)



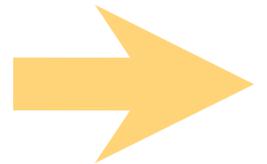
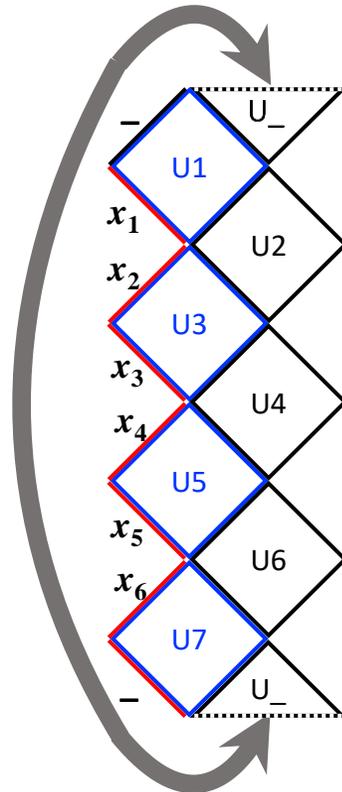
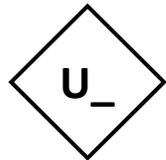
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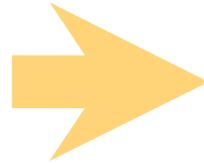
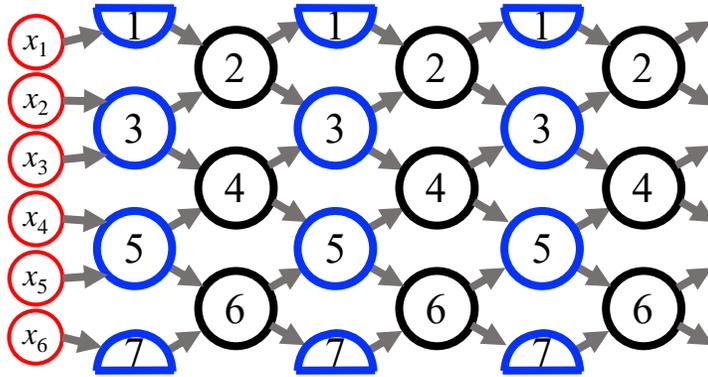
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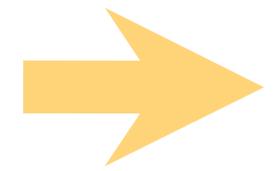
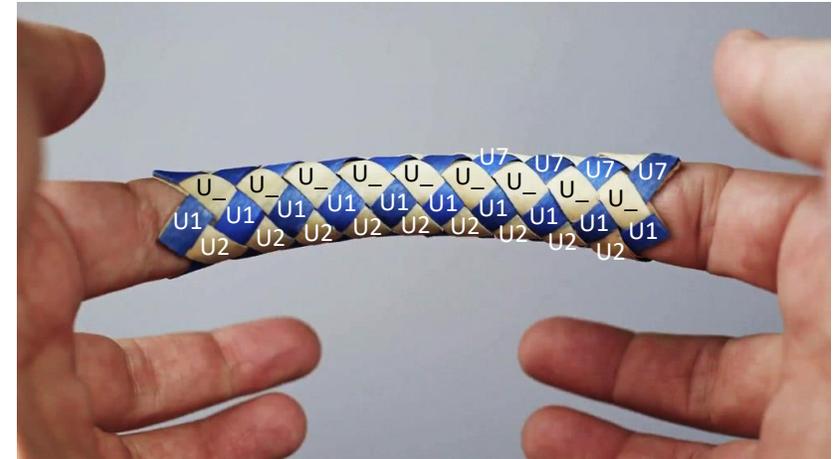
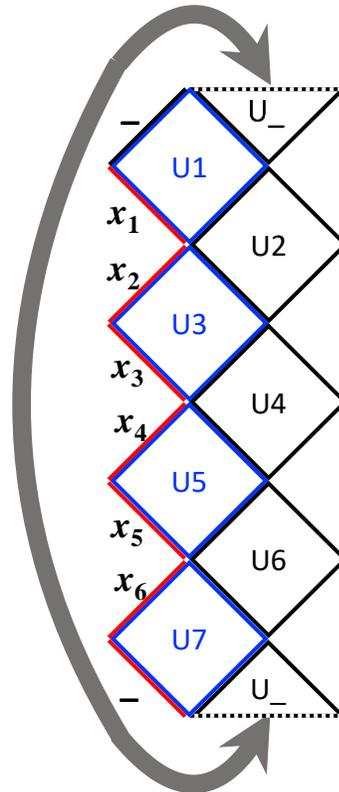
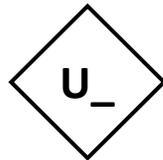
“data-free” tile wraps top
to bottom to form a tube



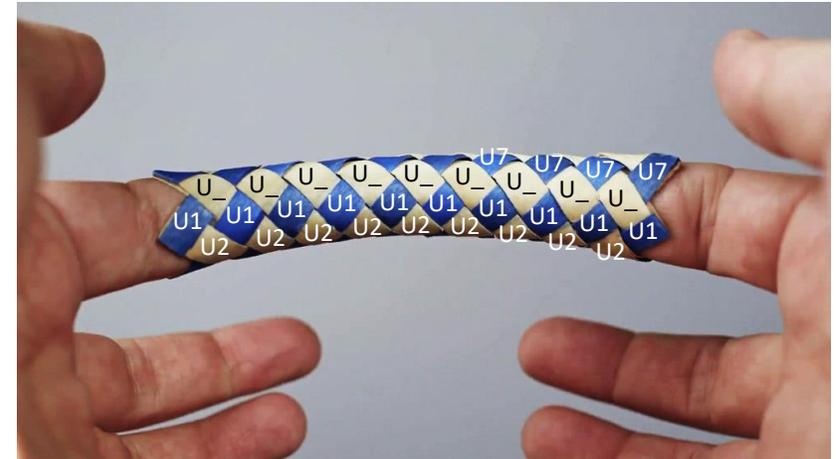
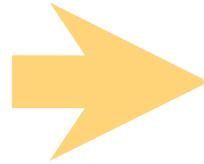
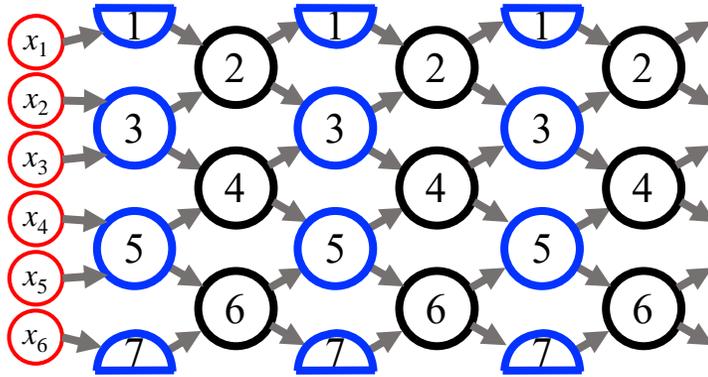
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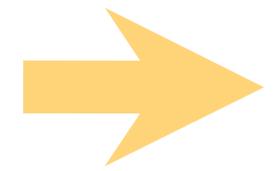
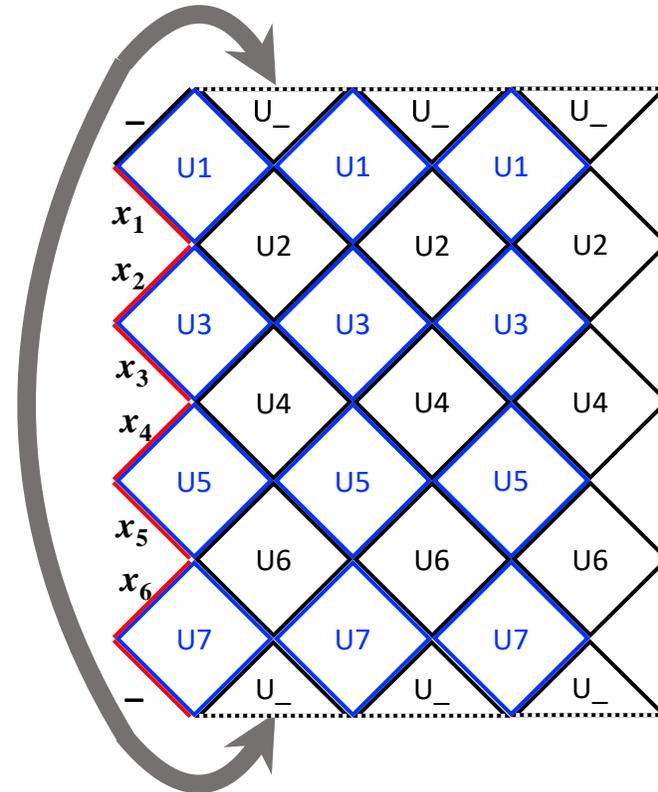
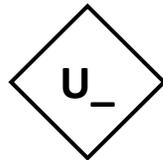
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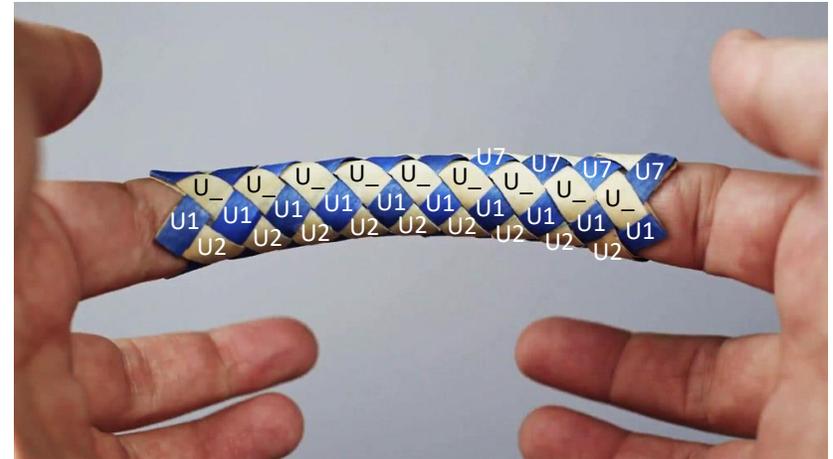
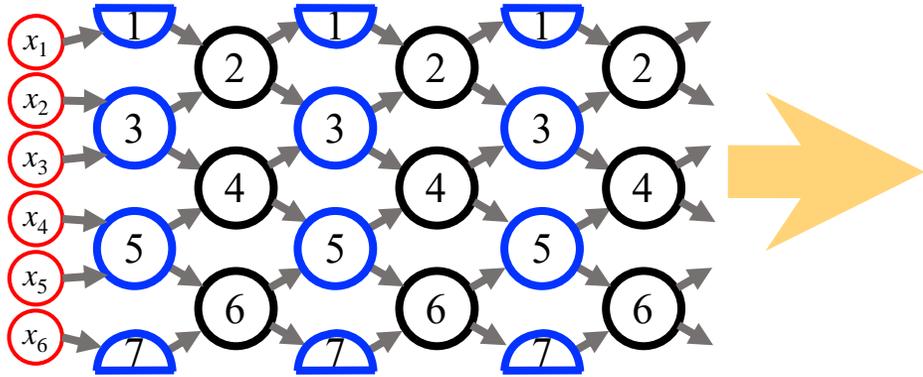
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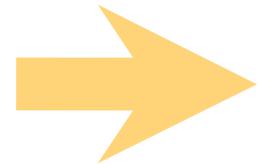
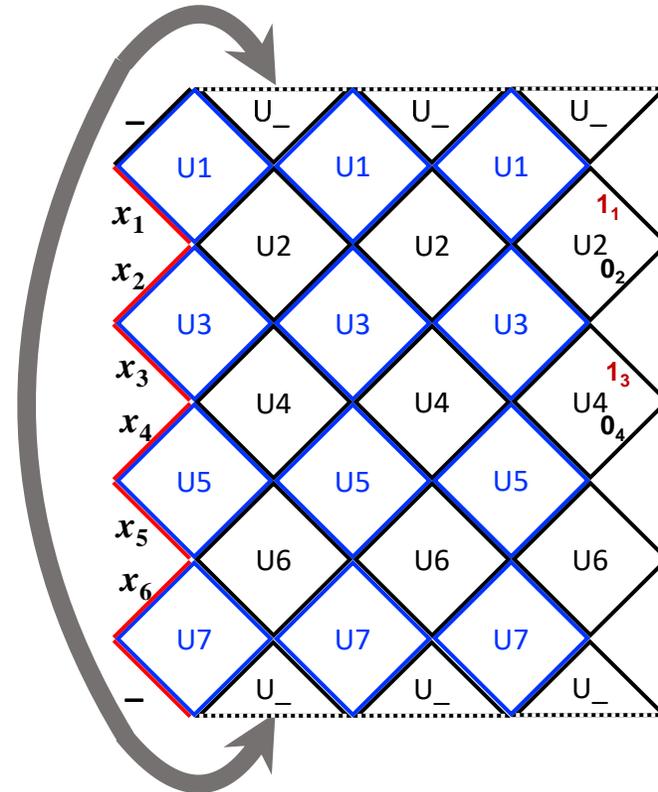
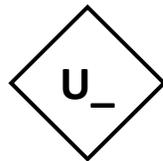
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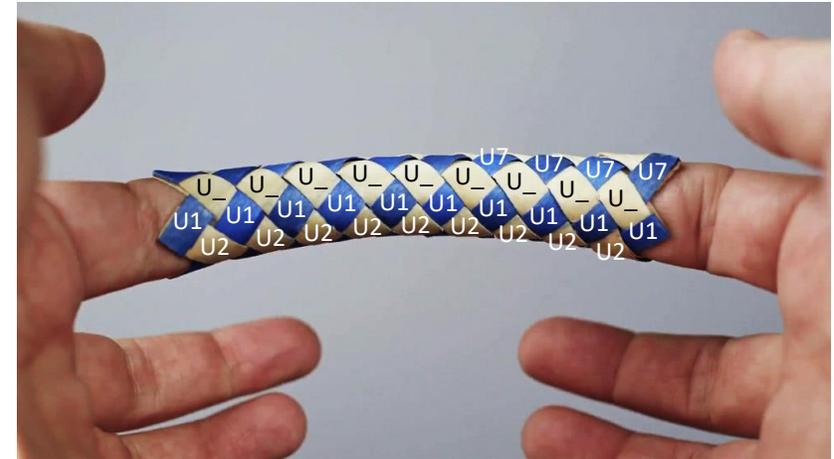
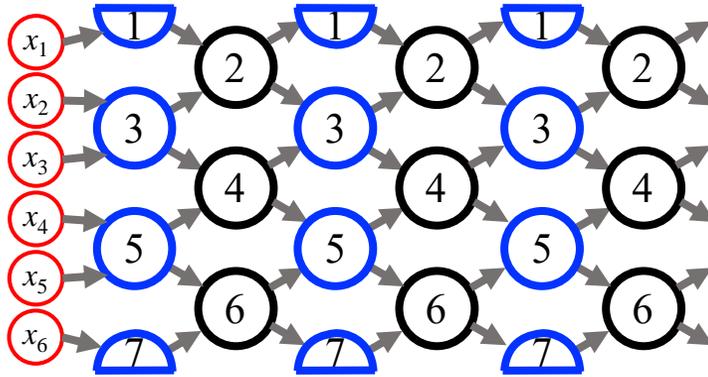
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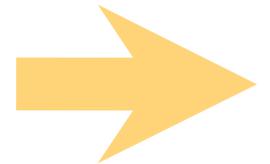
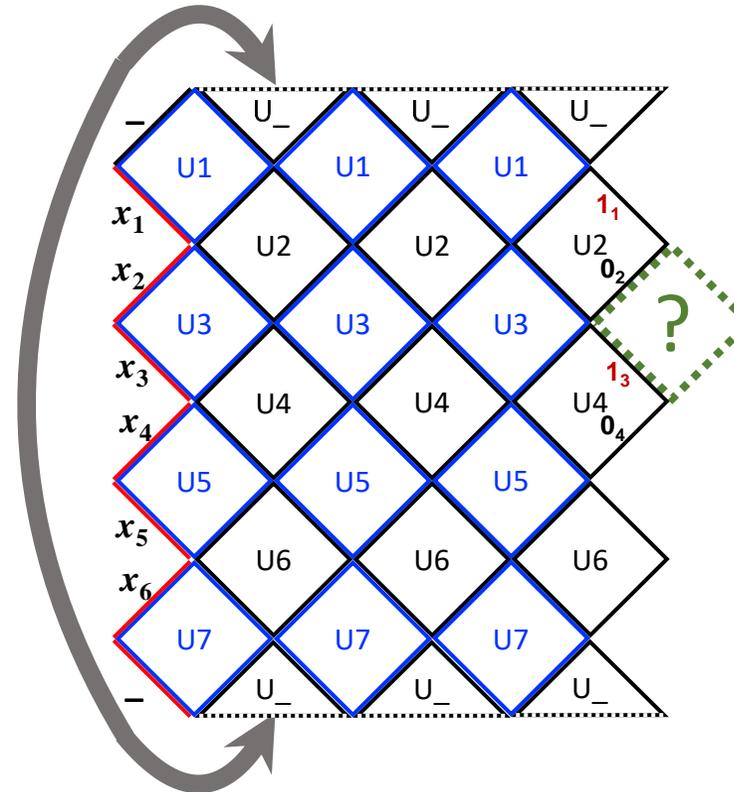
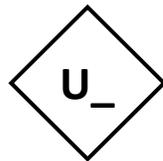
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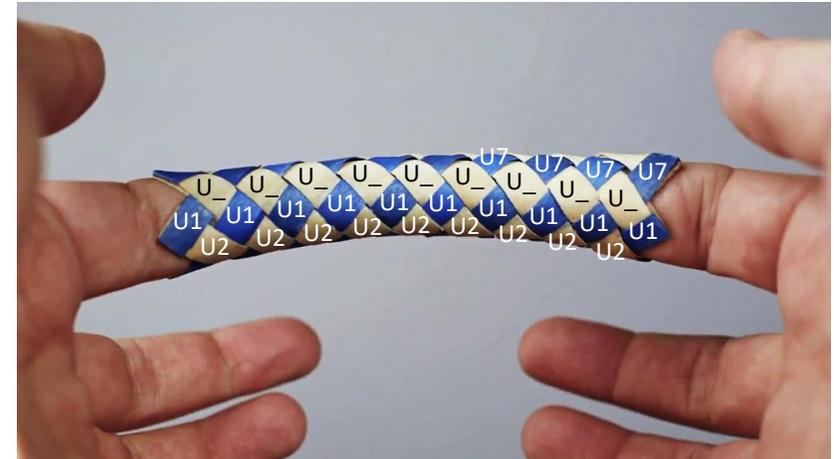
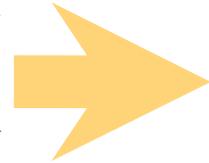
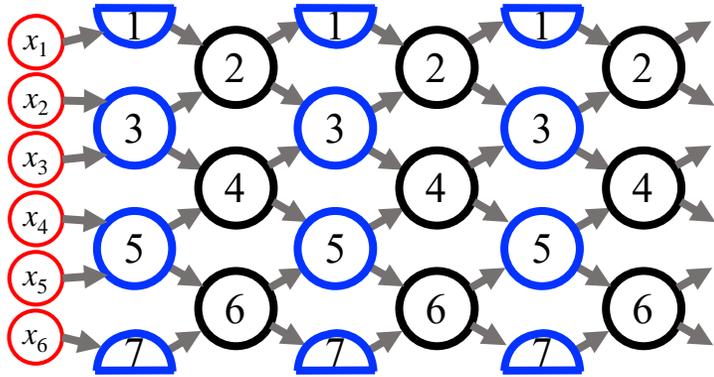
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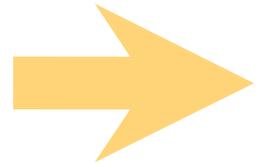
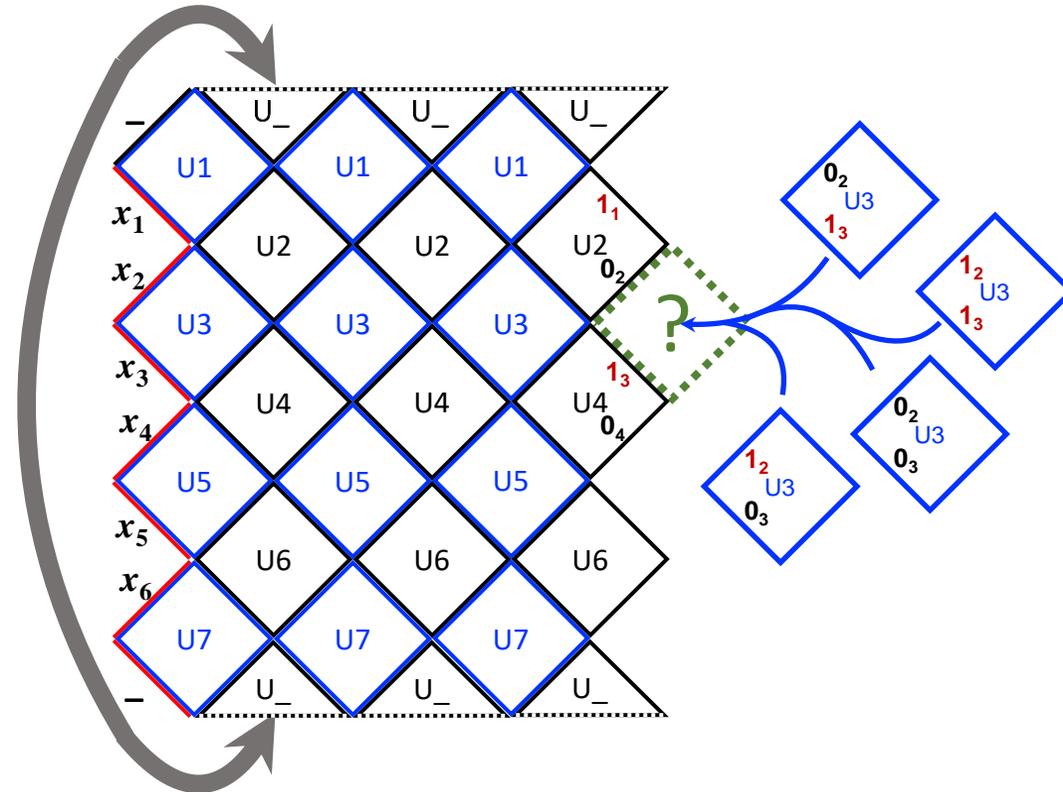
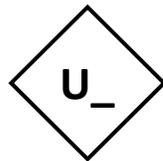
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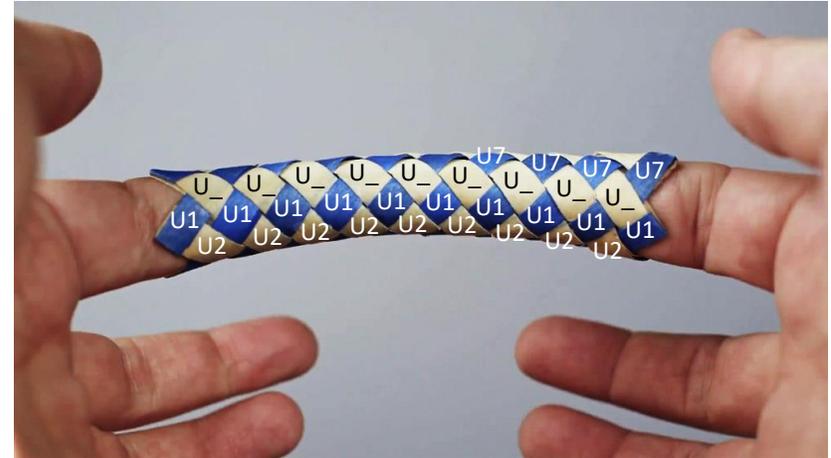
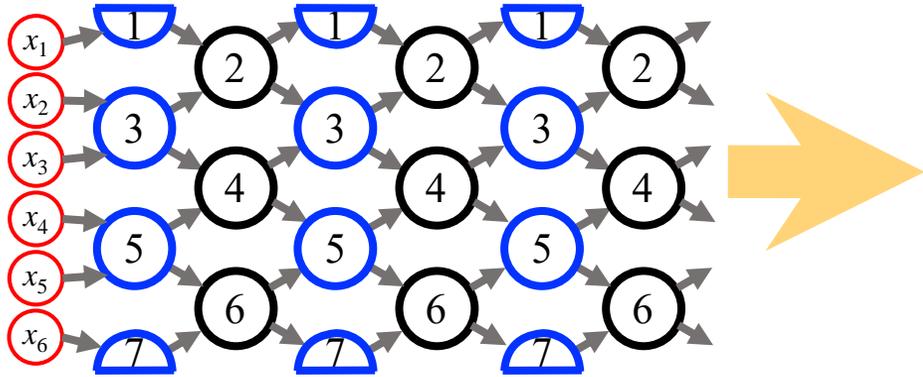
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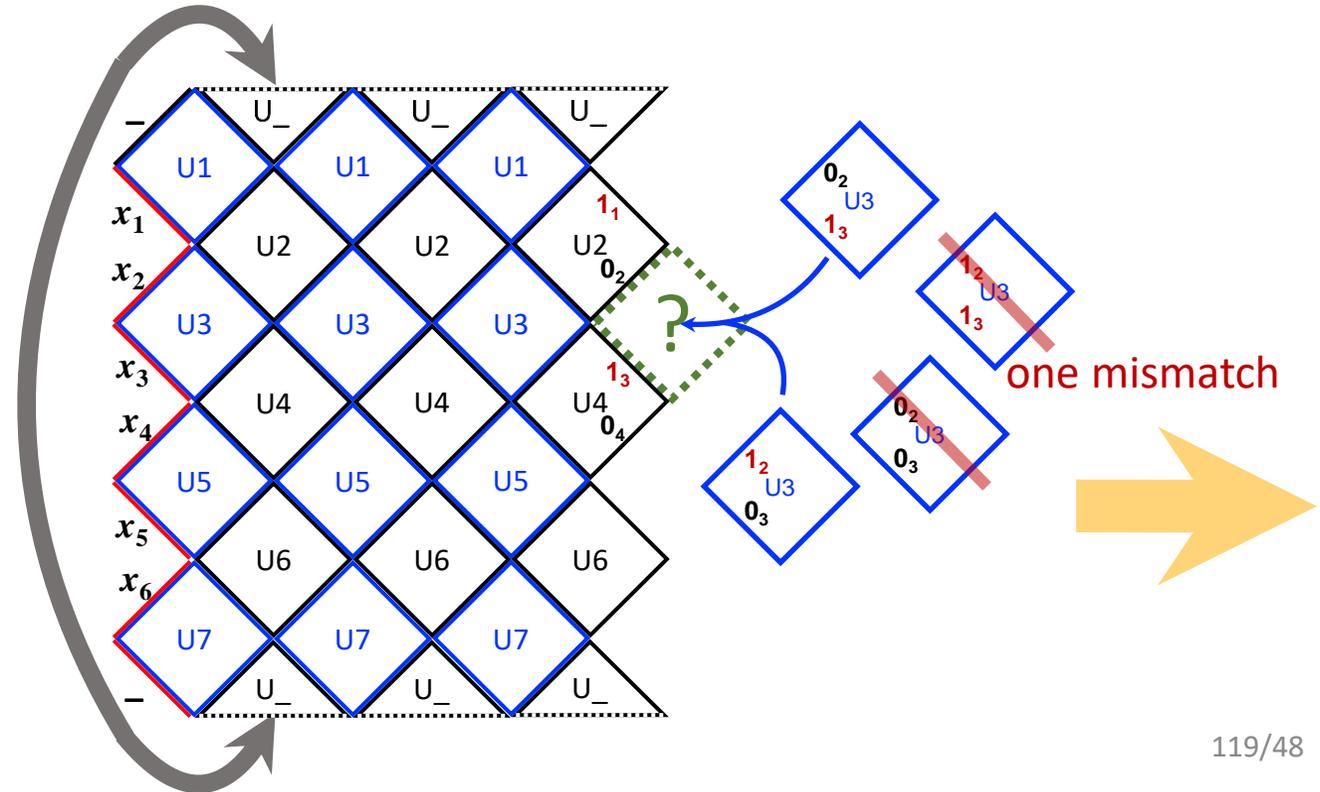
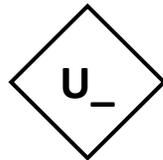
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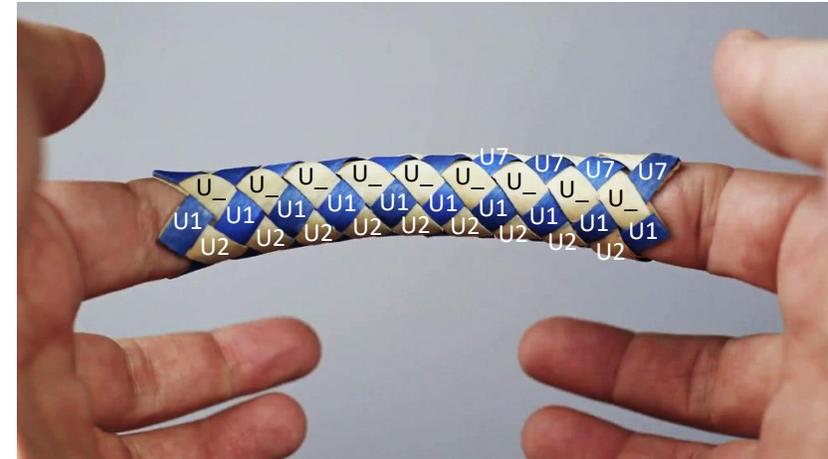
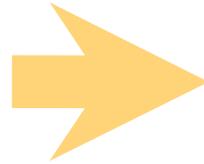
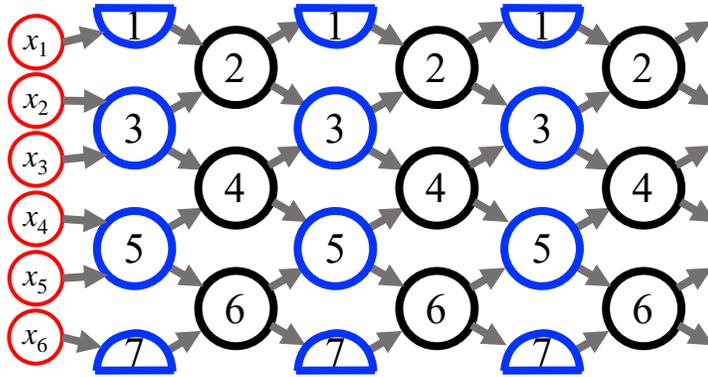
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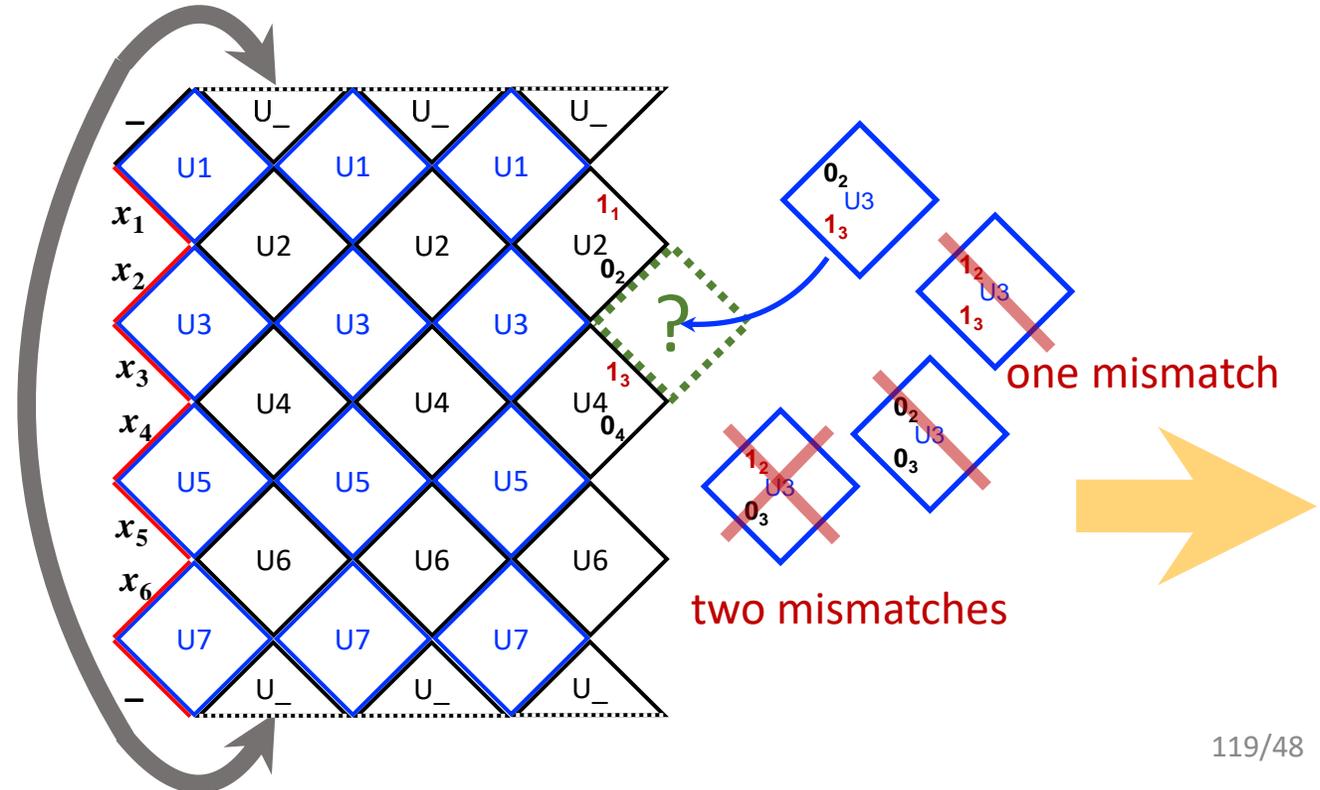
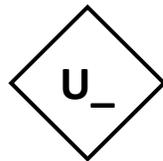
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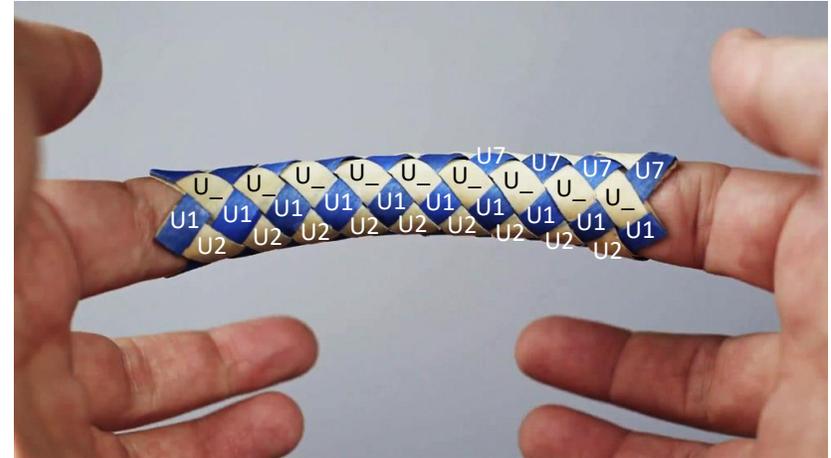
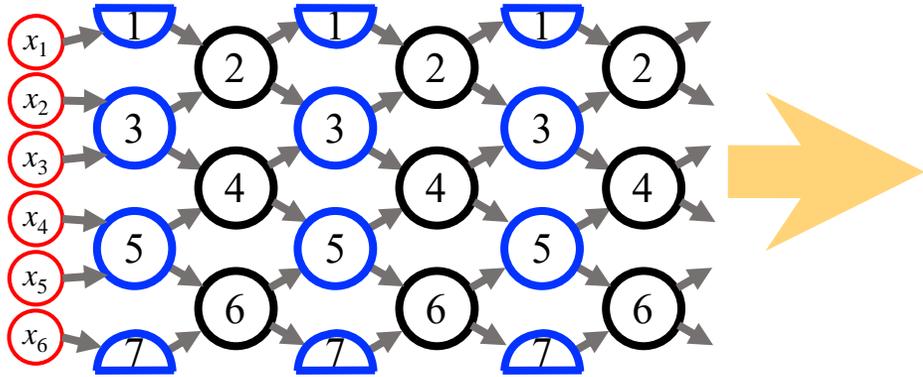
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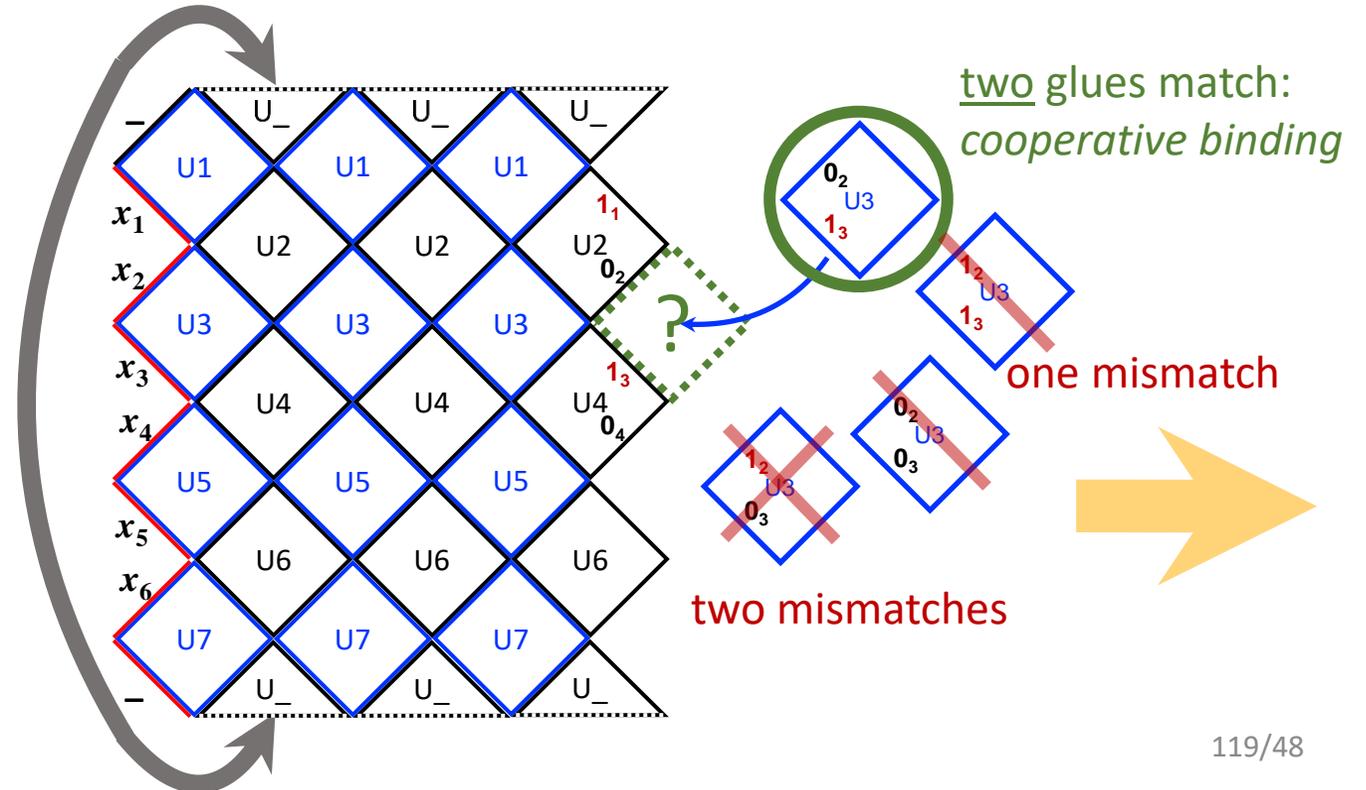
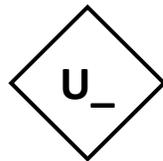
“data-free” tile wraps top
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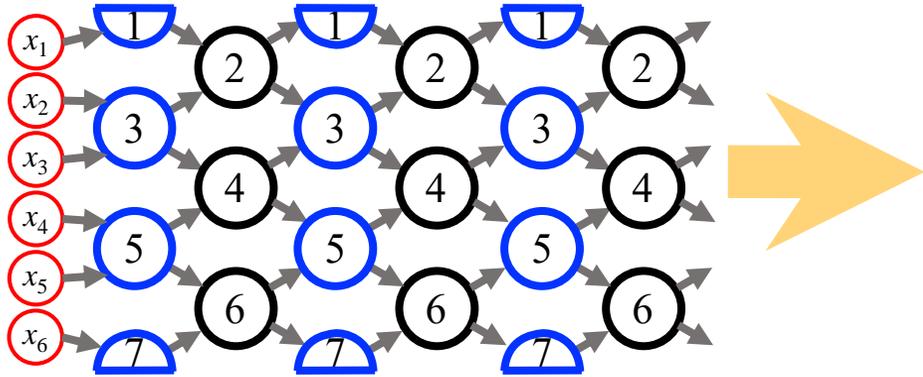
How tiles compute while growing (algorithmic self-assembly)



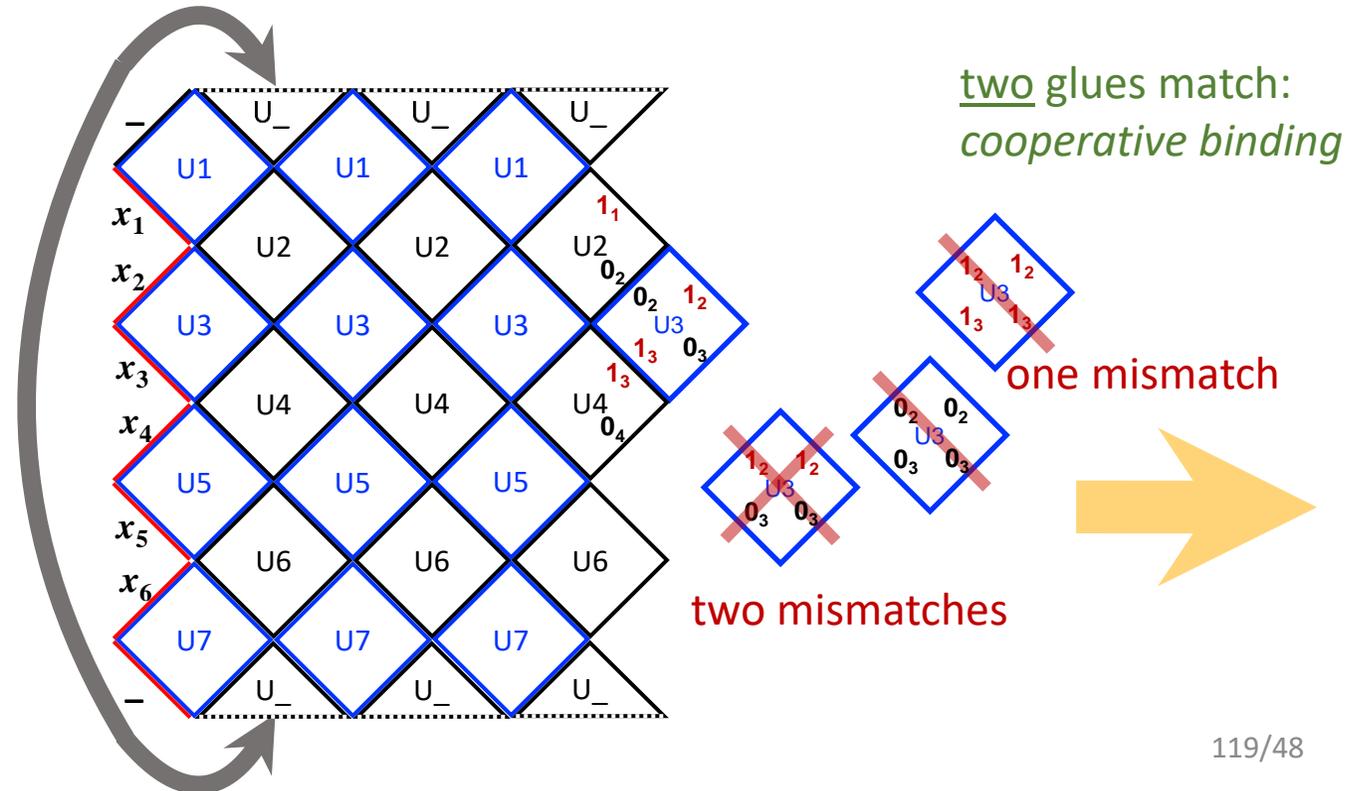
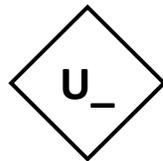
“data-free” tile wraps top to bottom to form a tube



How tiles compute while growing (algorithmic self-assembly)



“data-free” tile wraps top to bottom to form a tube



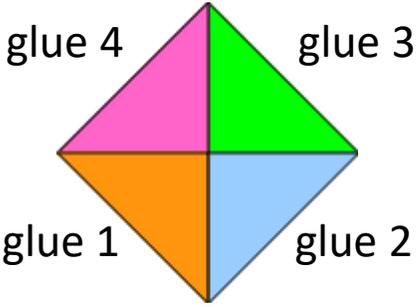
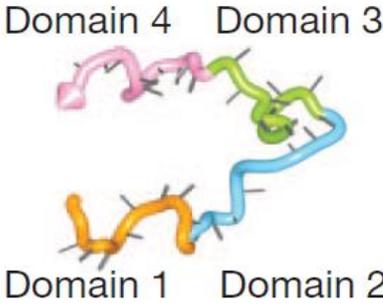
Hierarchy of abstractions

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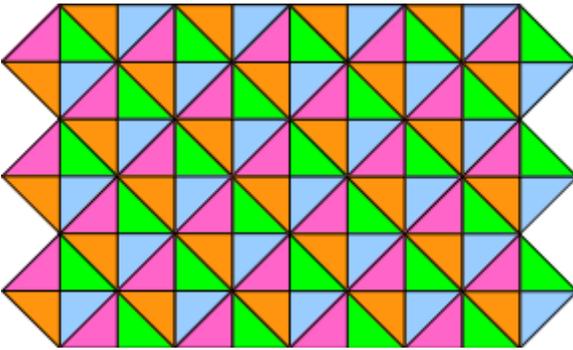
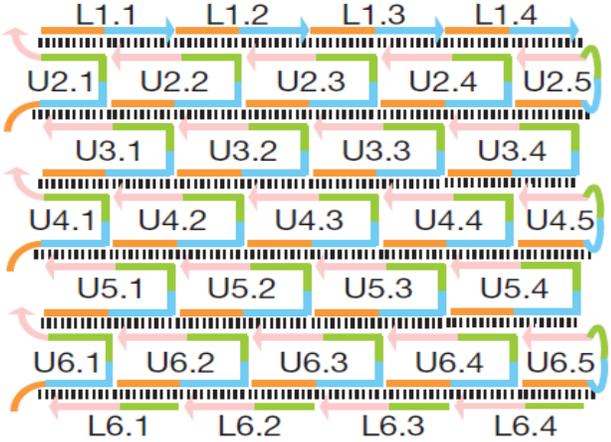
Tiles: Tile growth implements circuits

→ DNA: DNA strands implement tiles

DNA single-stranded tiles

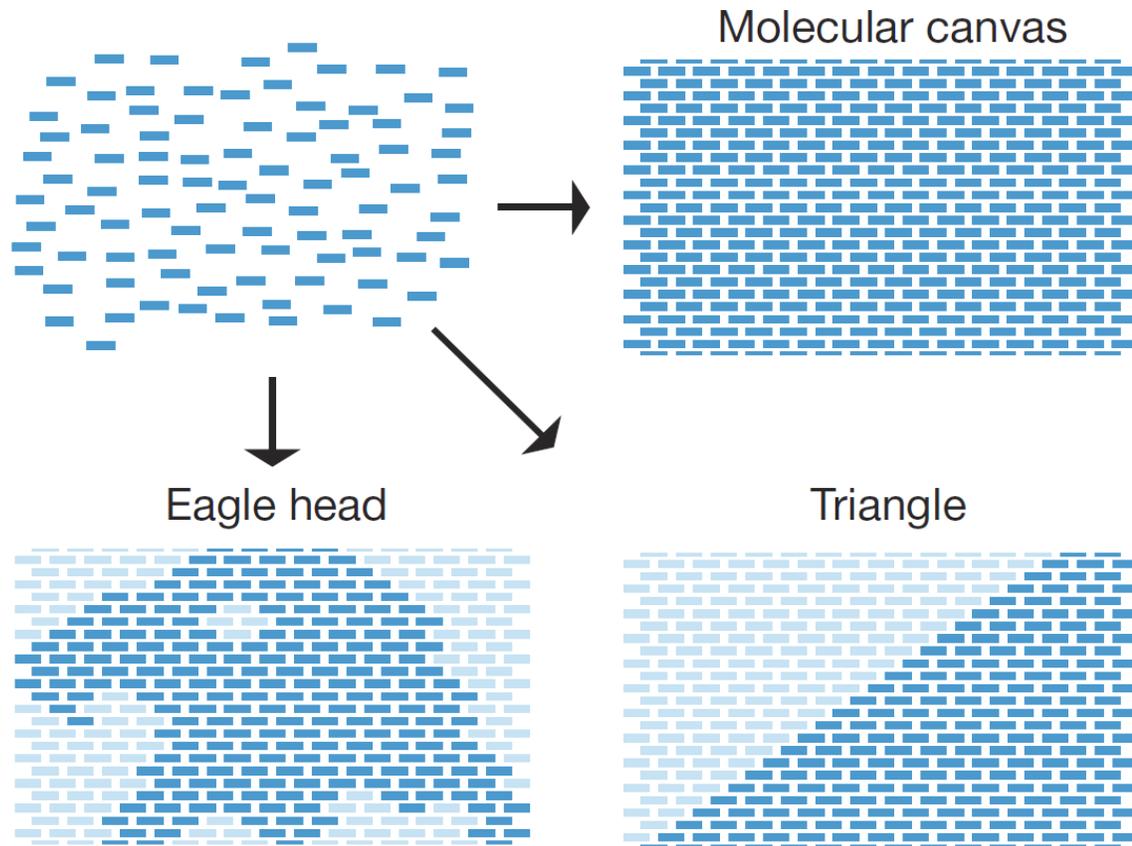


assembly →



Yin, Hariadi, Sahu, Choi, Park, LaBean, and Reif.
Programming DNA tube circumferences.
Science 2008

Single-stranded tiles for making any shape



Bryan Wei, Mingjie Dai, and Peng Yin.
Complex shapes self-assembled from single-stranded DNA tiles.
Nature 2012.

Uniquely addressed self-assembly versus algorithmic

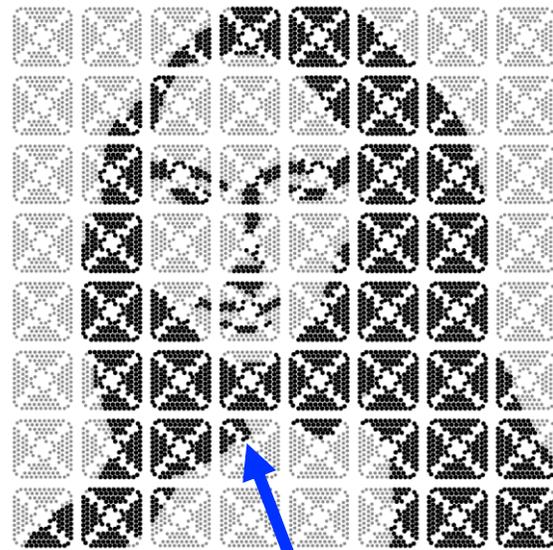
Unique addressing: each DNA “monomer” appears **exactly once** in final structure.

single DNA origami



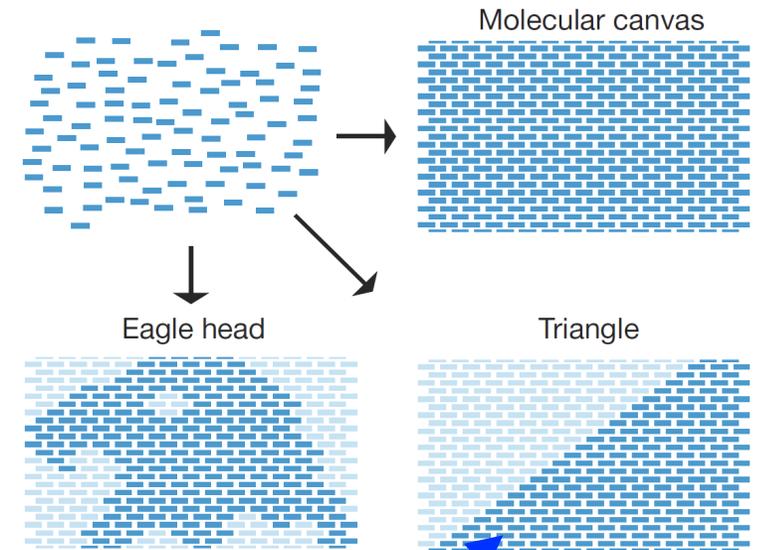
staple strand for position (4,2)

array of many DNA origamis



origami for position (4,2)

uniquely-addressed tiles



tile for position (4,2)

Uniquely addressed self-assembly versus algorithmic

Unique addressing: each DNA “monomer” appears **exactly once** in final structure.

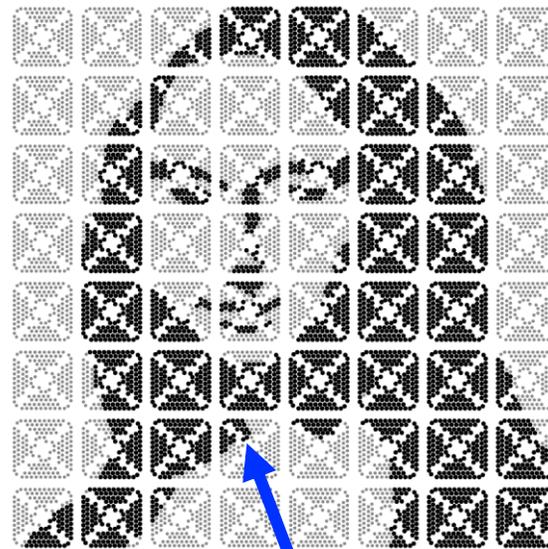
Algorithmic: DNA tiles are **reused** throughout the structure.

single DNA origami



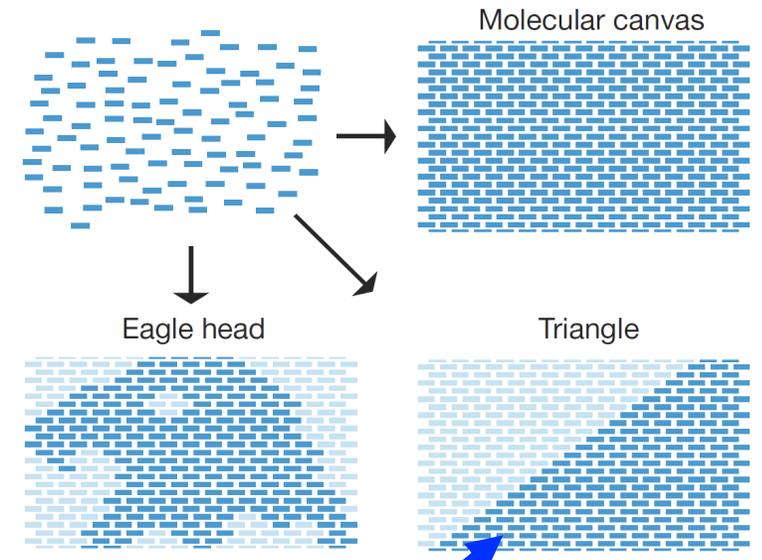
staple strand for position (4,2)

array of many DNA origamis



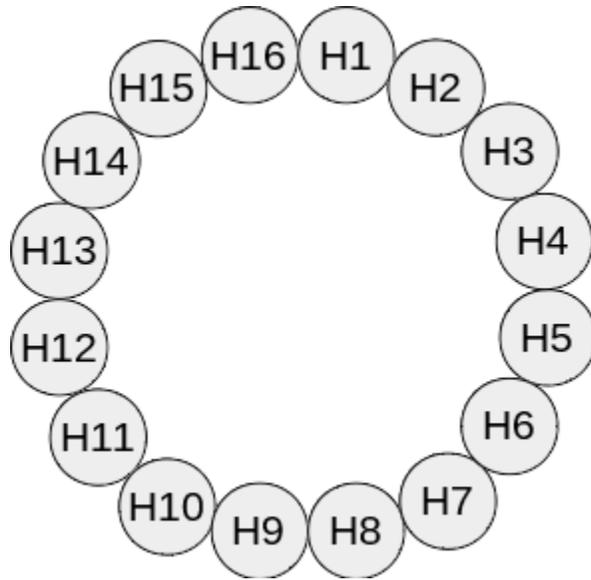
origami for position (4,2)

uniquely-addressed tiles

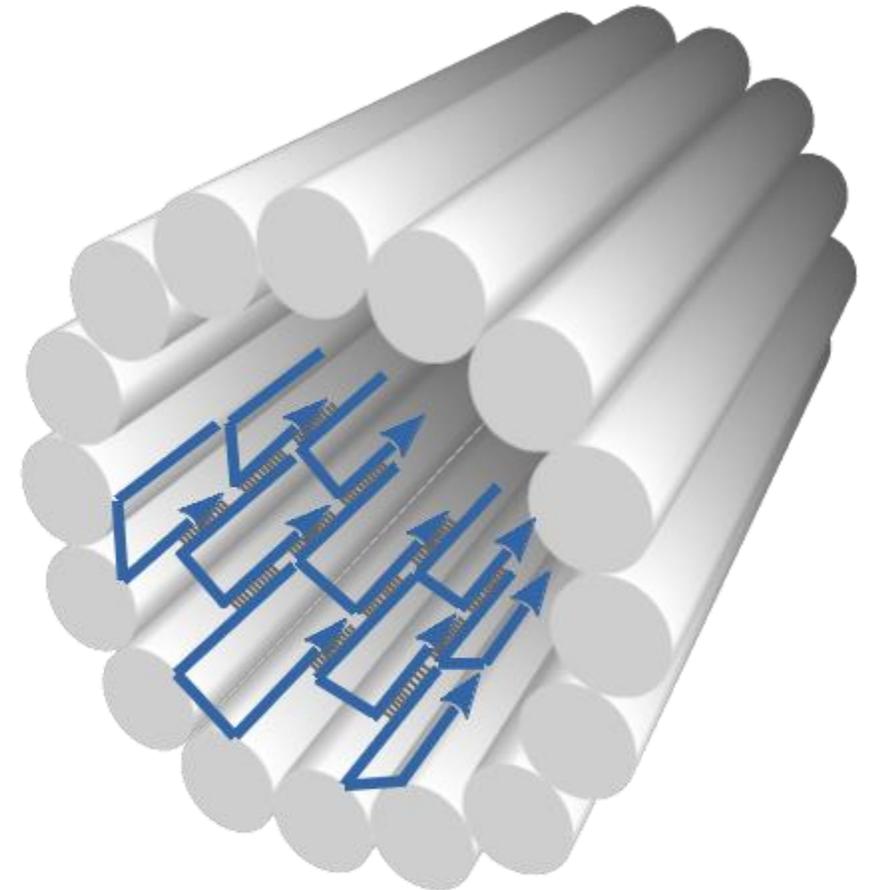


tile for position (4,2)

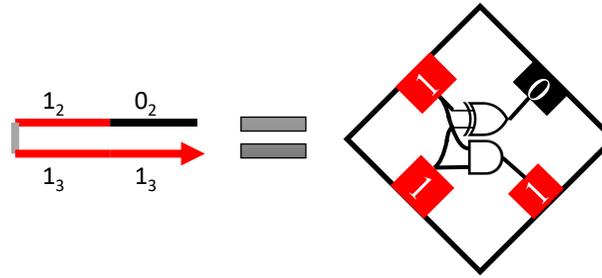
Single-stranded tile tubes



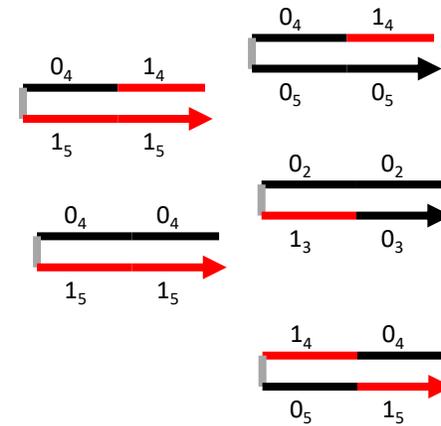
DNA-level diagram of 20-helix tube



Seeded growth



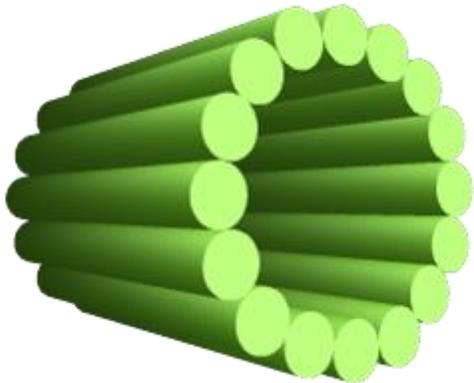
single-stranded tiles
implementing circuit gates



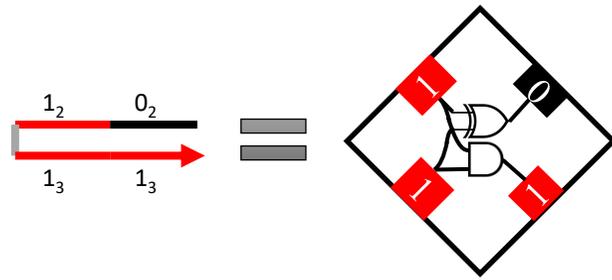
need barrier to nucleation
(tile growth without seed);
[tile]=100 nM;
temperature=50.9° C

Seeded growth

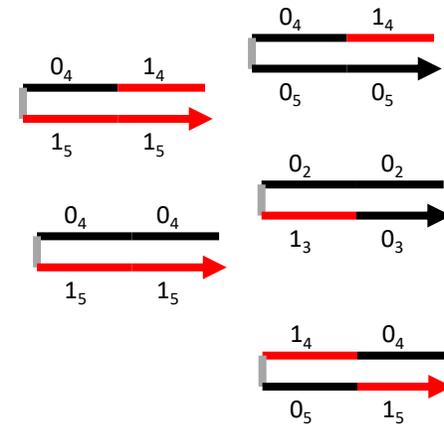
DNA origami seed



need barrier to nucleation
(tile growth without seed);
[tile]=100 nM;
temperature=50.9° C



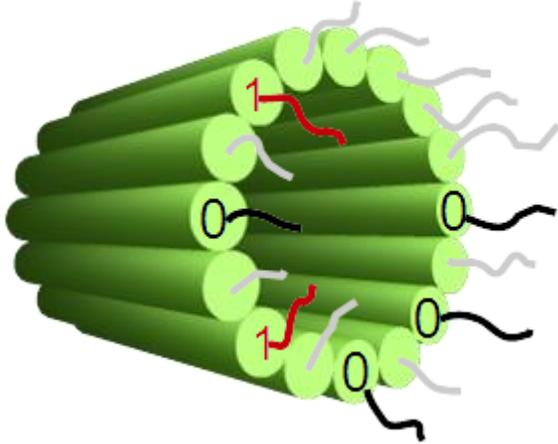
single-stranded tiles
implementing circuit gates



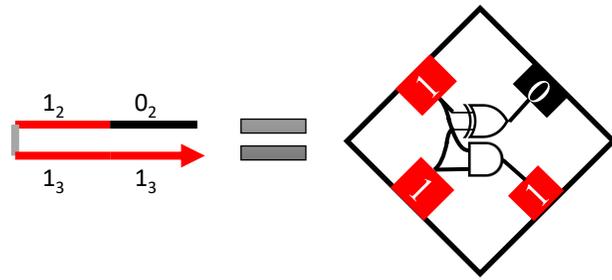
Seeded growth

DNA origami seed

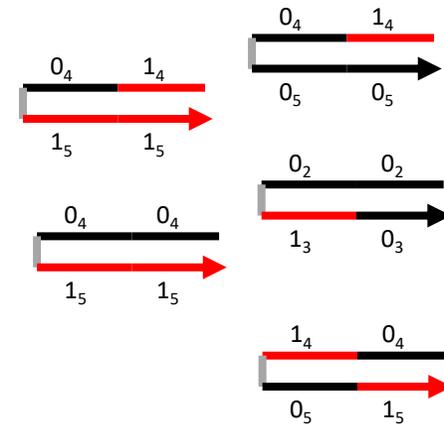
single-stranded "input-adapter"
extensions encoding 6 input bits



need barrier to nucleation
(tile growth without seed);
[tile]=100 nM;
temperature=50.9° C



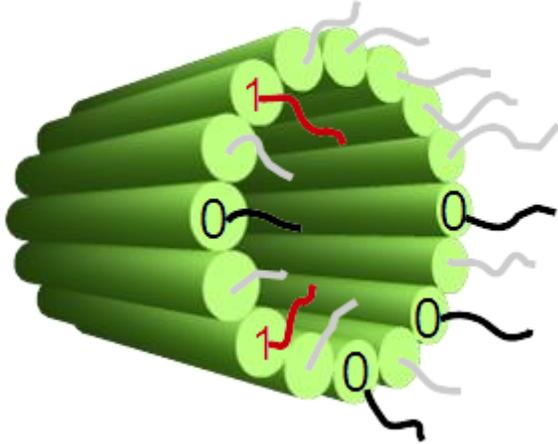
single-stranded tiles
implementing circuit gates



Seeded growth

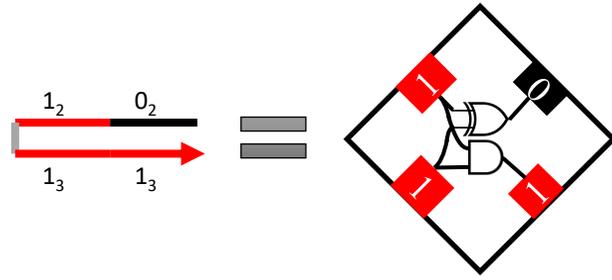
DNA origami seed

single-stranded "input-adapter"
extensions encoding 6 input bits

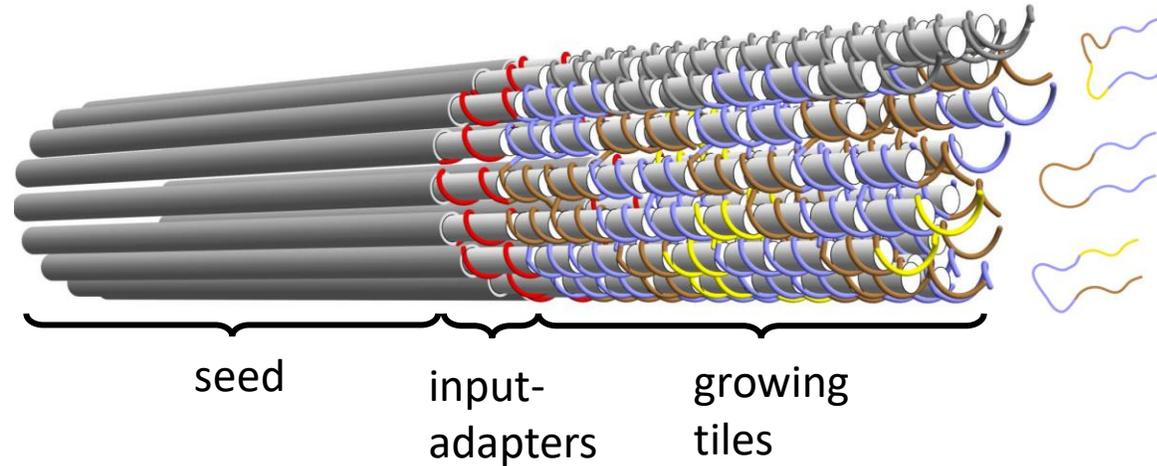
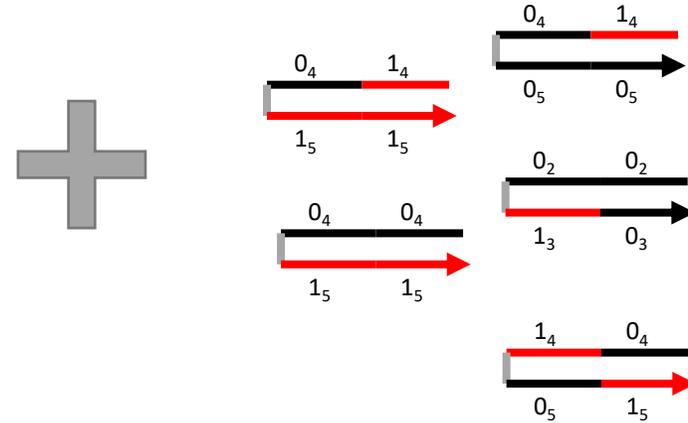


need barrier to nucleation
(tile growth without seed);
[tile]=100 nM;
temperature=50.9° C

hold 8-48 hours
➔



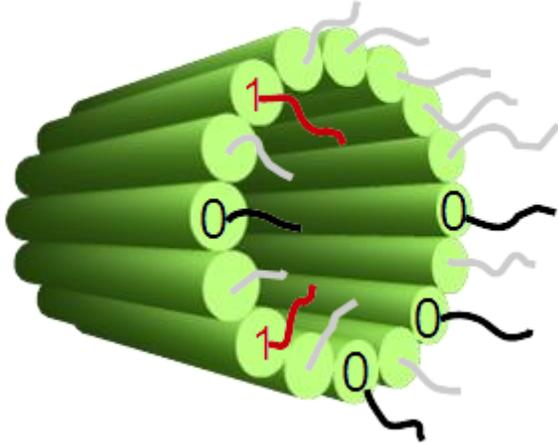
single-stranded tiles
implementing circuit gates



Seeded growth

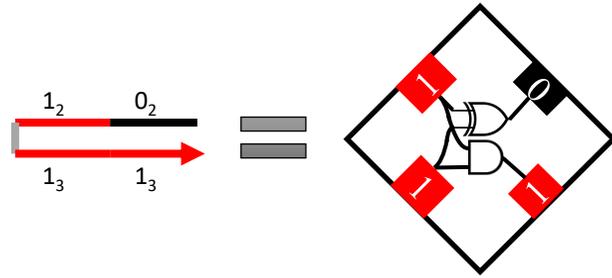
DNA origami seed

single-stranded "input-adapter"
extensions encoding 6 input bits

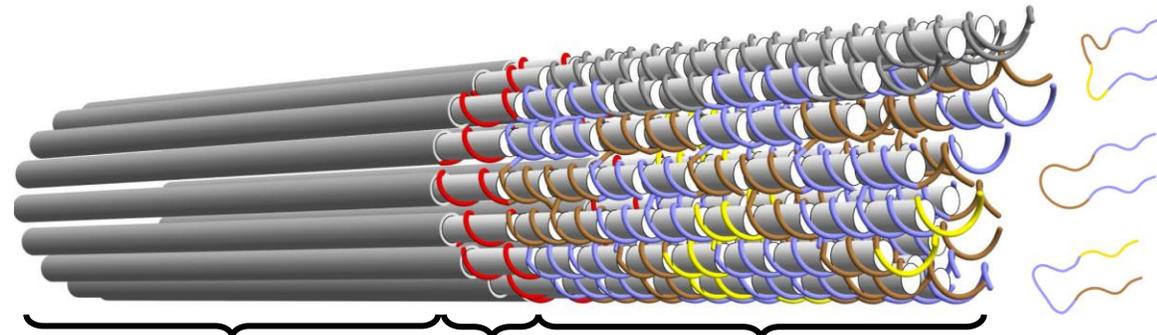
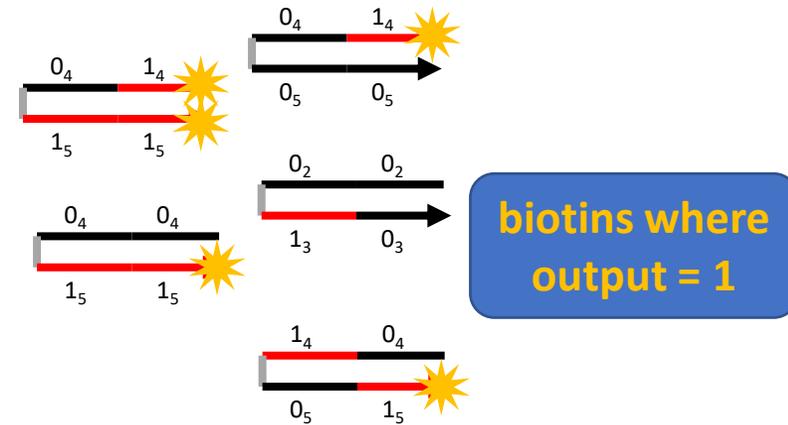


need barrier to nucleation
(tile growth without seed);
[tile]=100 nM;
temperature=50.9° C

hold 8-48 hours



single-stranded tiles
implementing circuit gates



seed

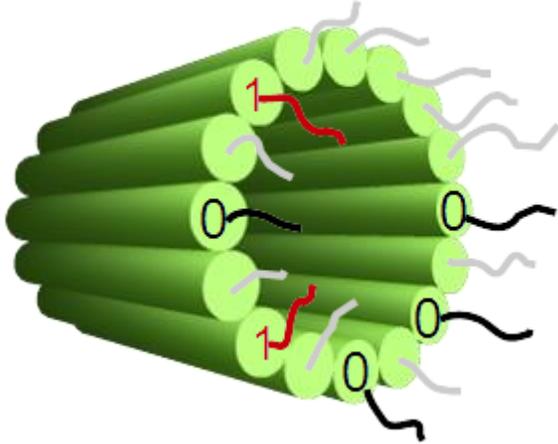
input-
adapters

growing
tiles

Seeded growth

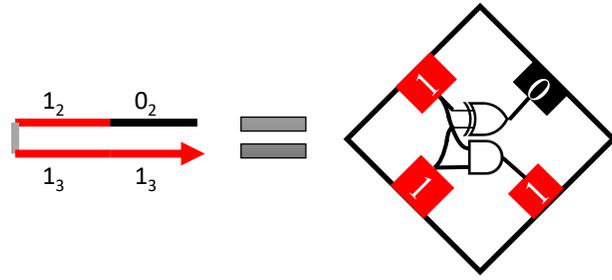
DNA origami seed

single-stranded "input-adaptor" extensions encoding 6 input bits

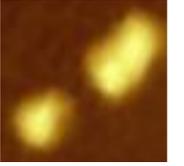


need barrier to nucleation
(tile growth without seed);
[tile]=100 nM;
temperature=50.9° C

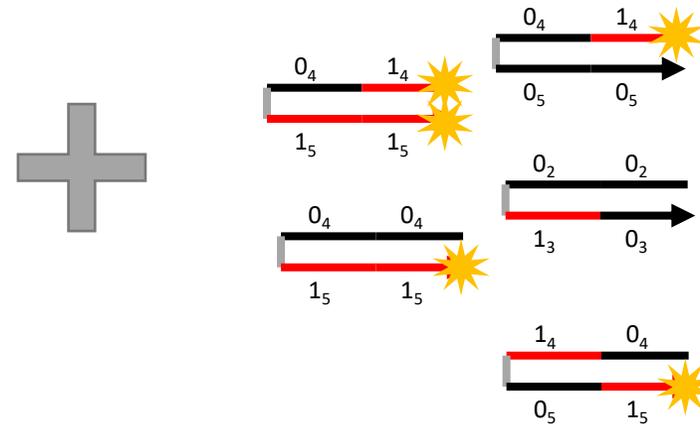
hold 8-48 hours
→



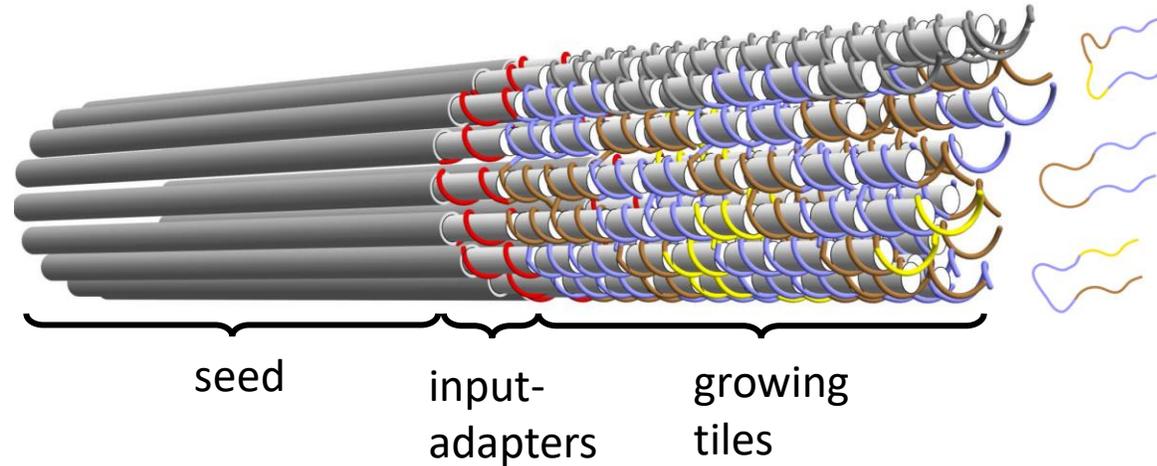
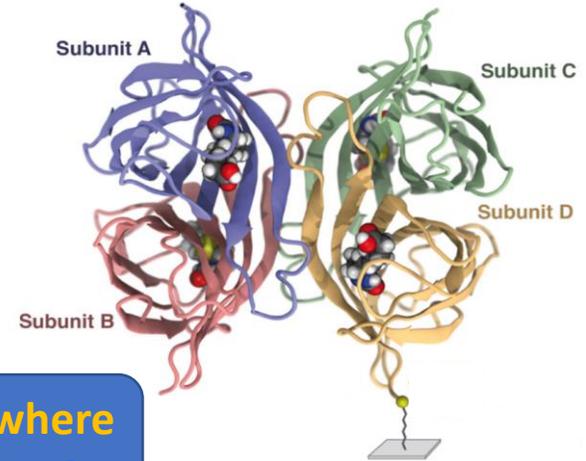
can later add streptavidin (5 nm wide protein) to bind biotins and visualize where the 1's are



single-stranded tiles implementing circuit gates

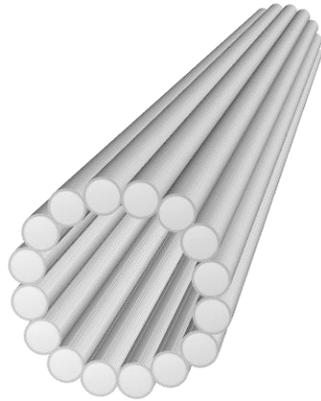


biotins where output = 1

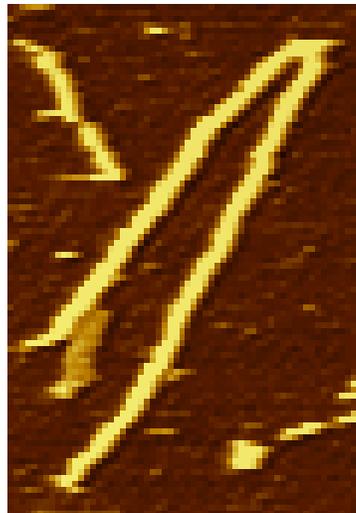


Tubes to ribbons

tube



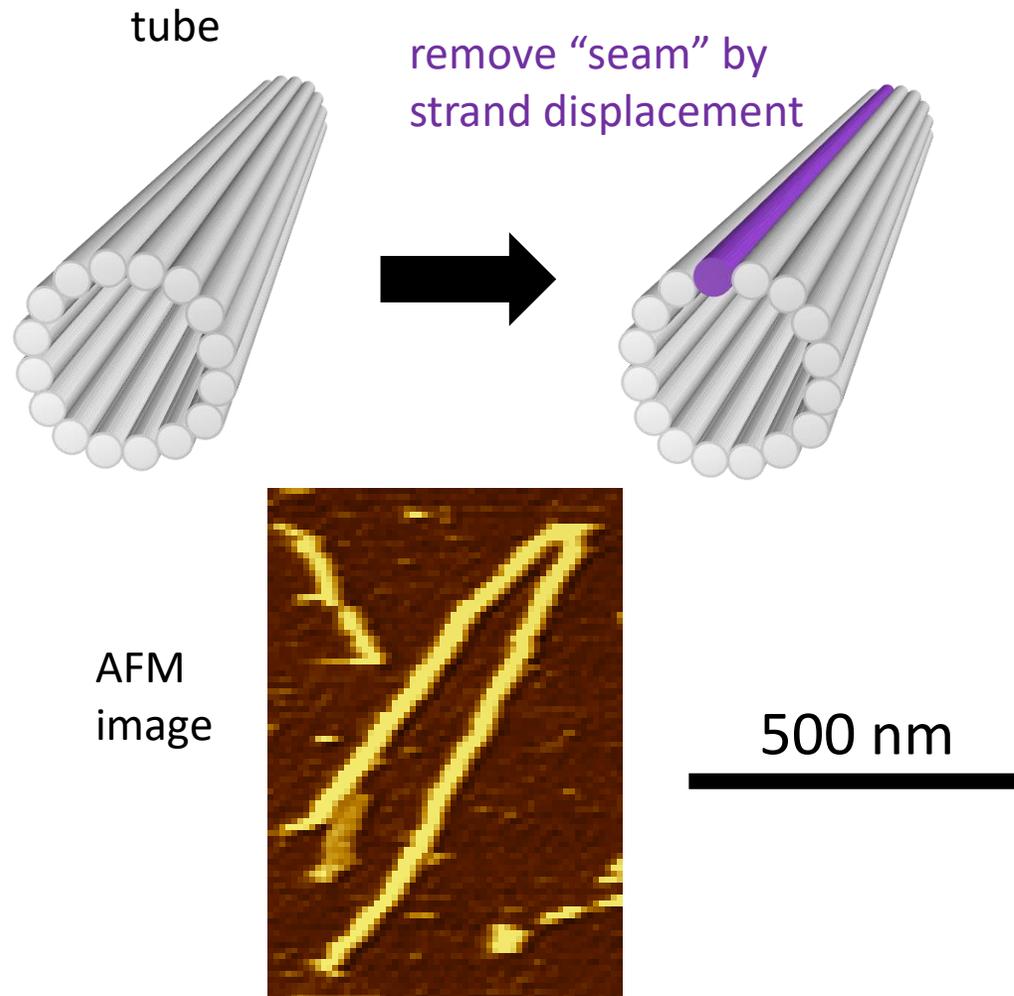
AFM
image



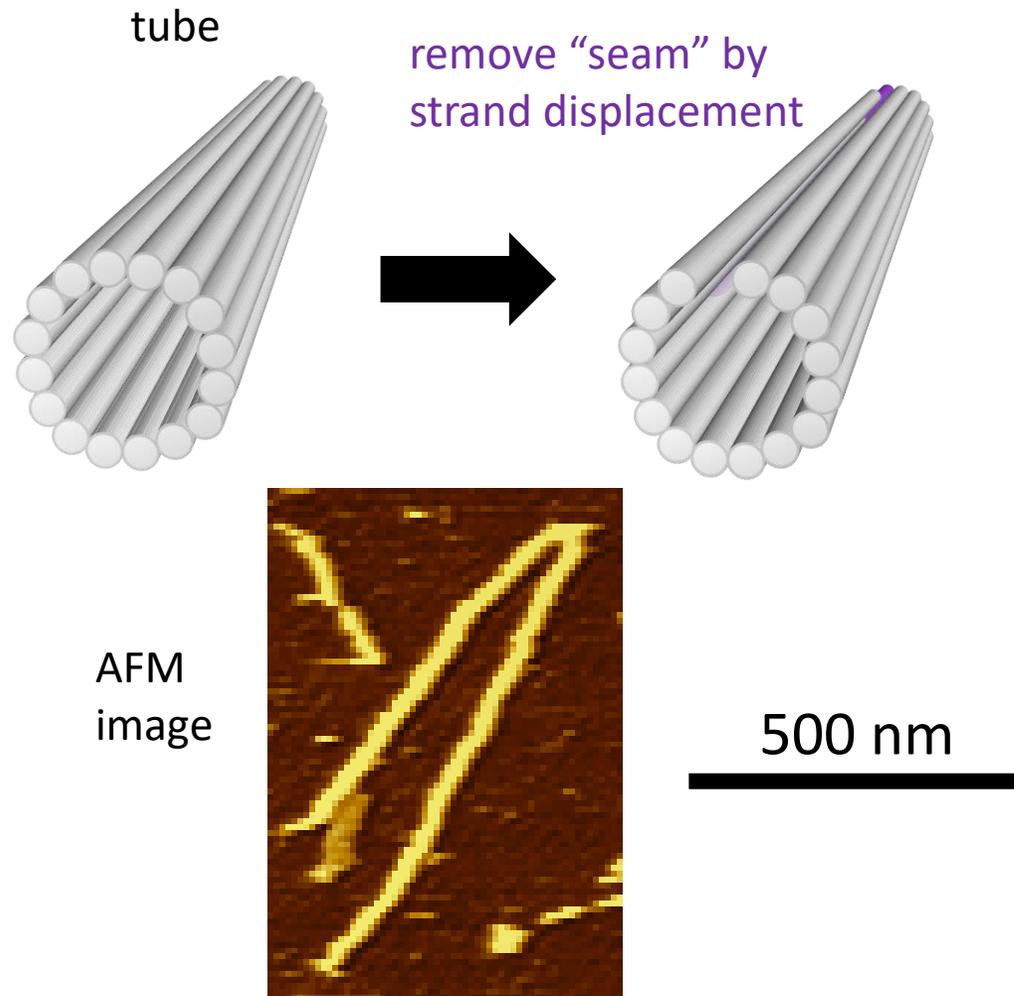
500 nm



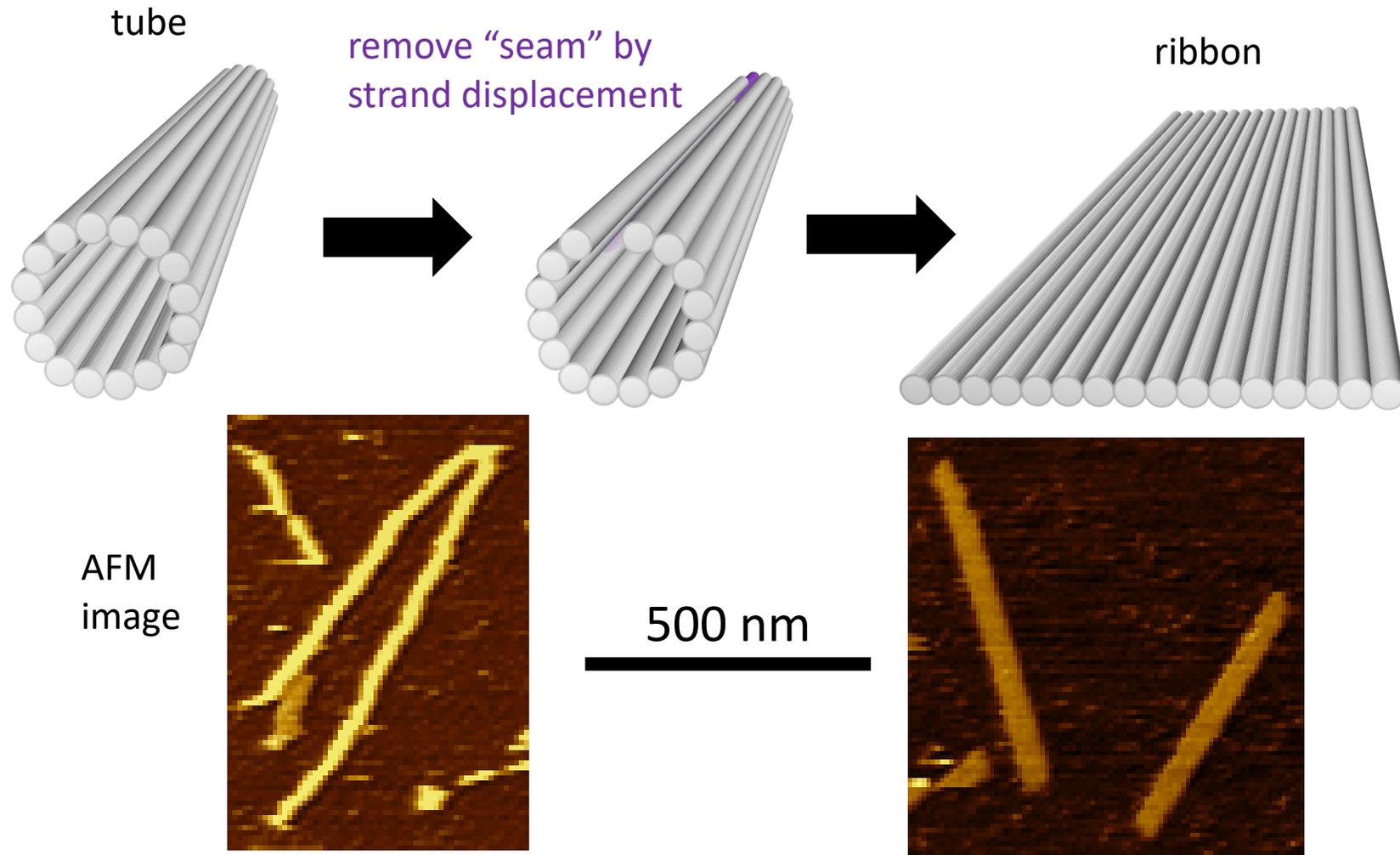
Tubes to ribbons



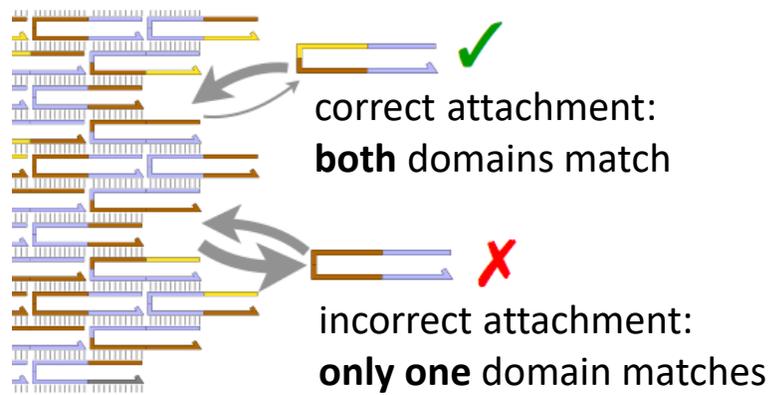
Tubes to ribbons



Tubes to ribbons



DNA sequence design

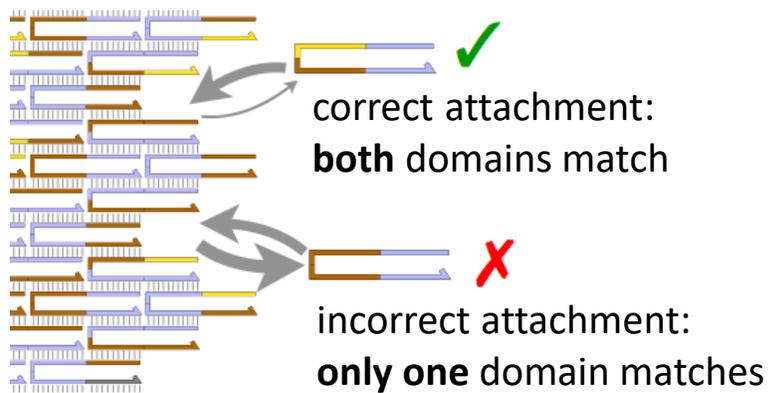
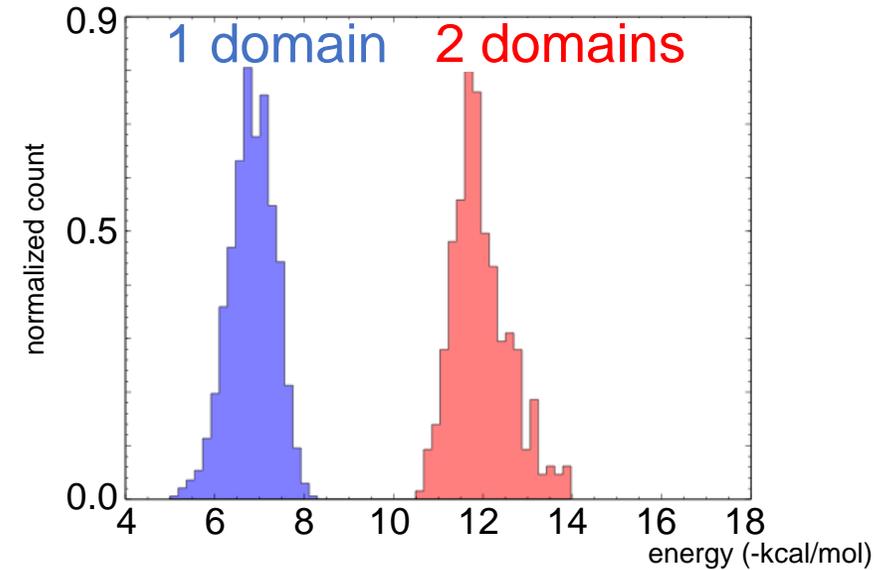
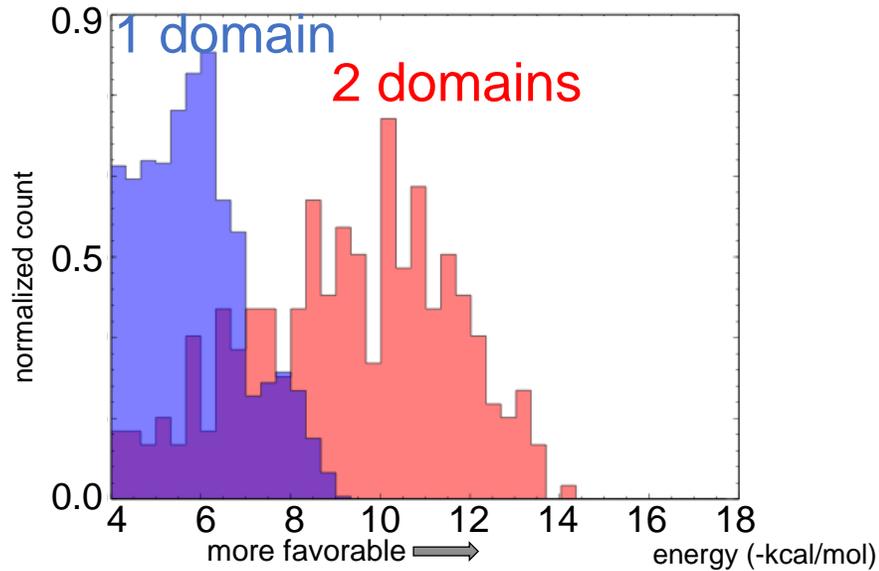


DNA sequence design

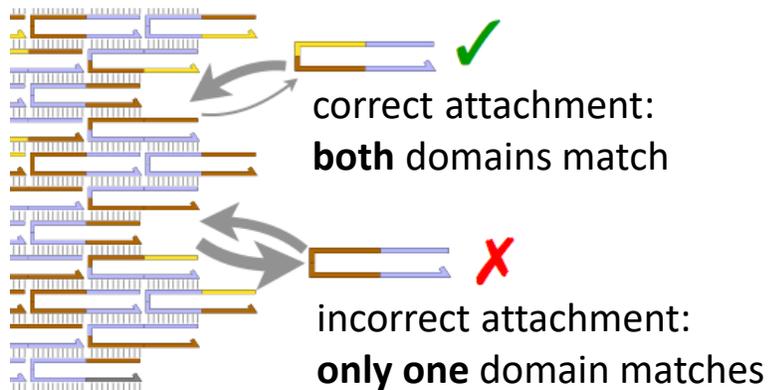
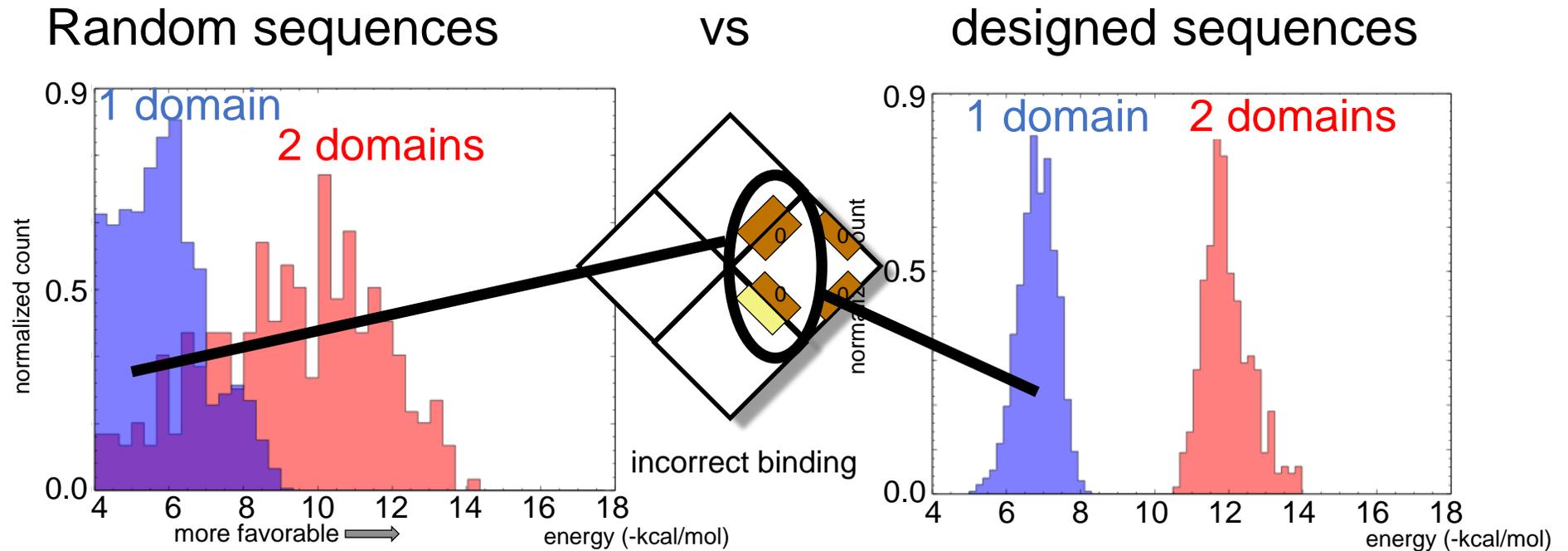
Random sequences

vs

designed sequences



DNA sequence design

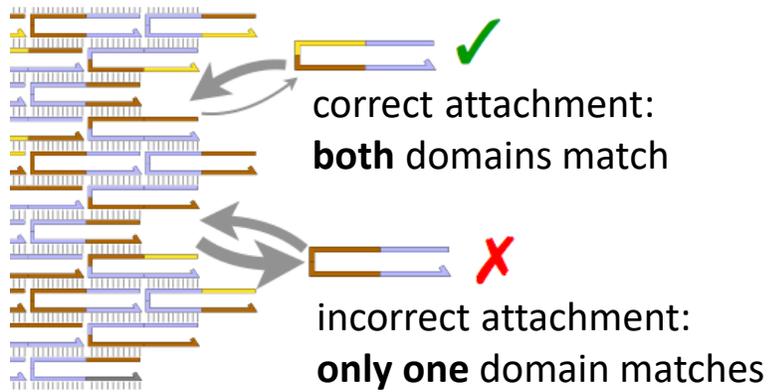
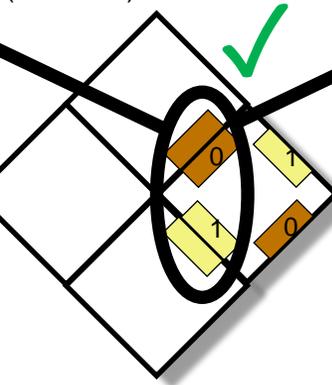
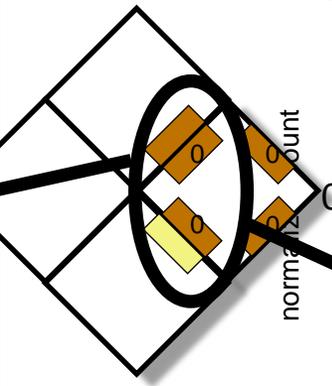
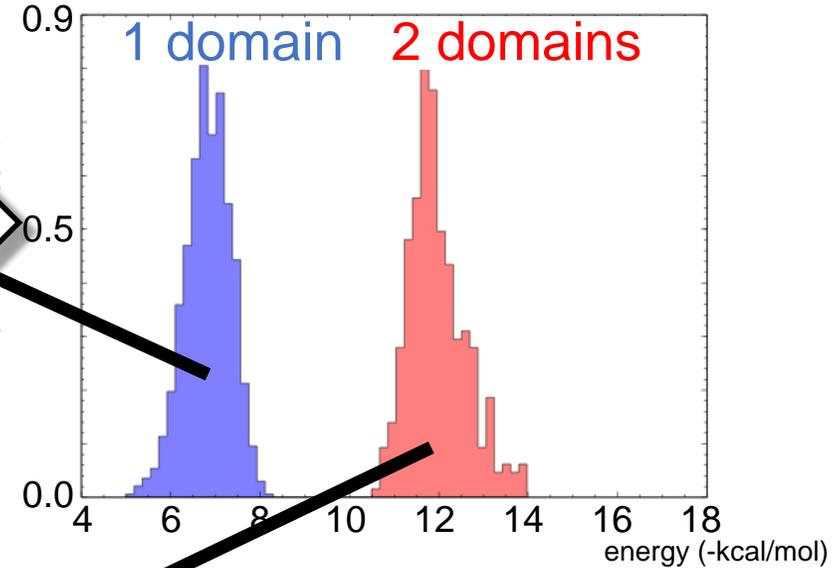
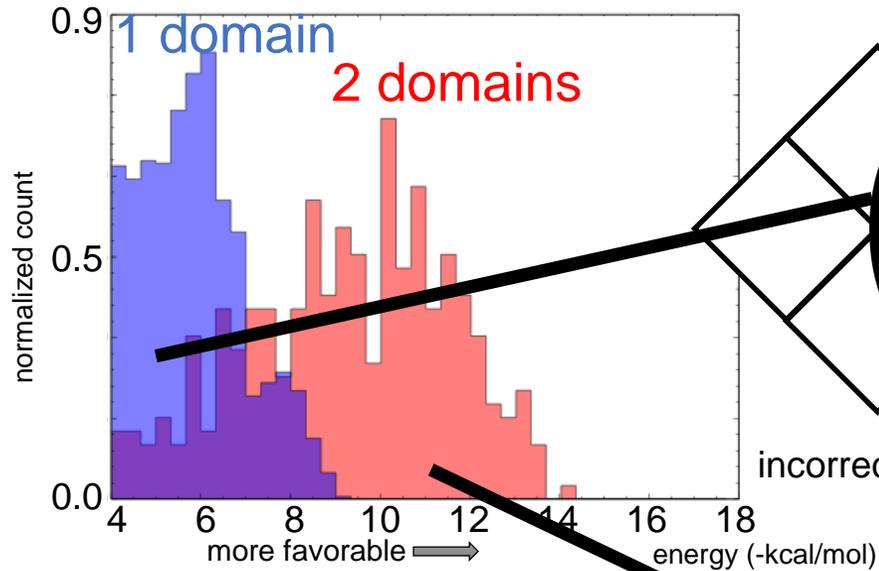


DNA sequence design

Random sequences

vs

designed sequences

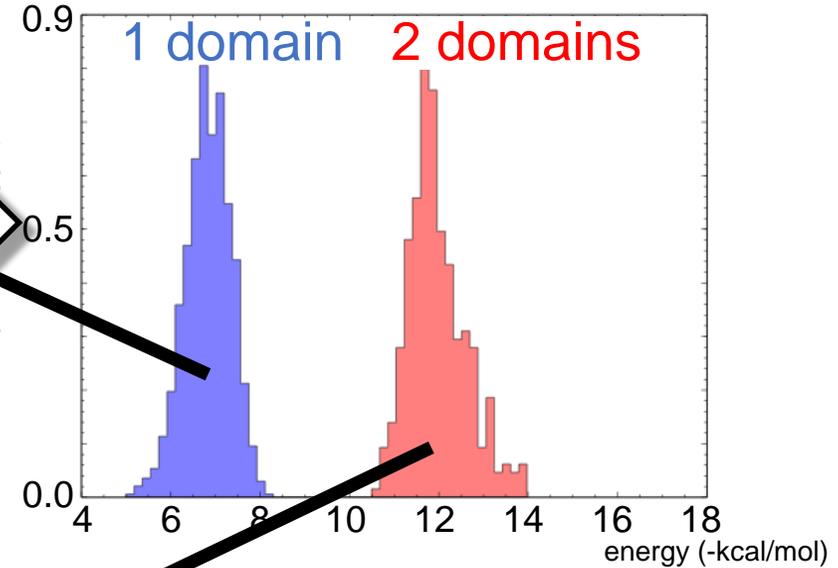
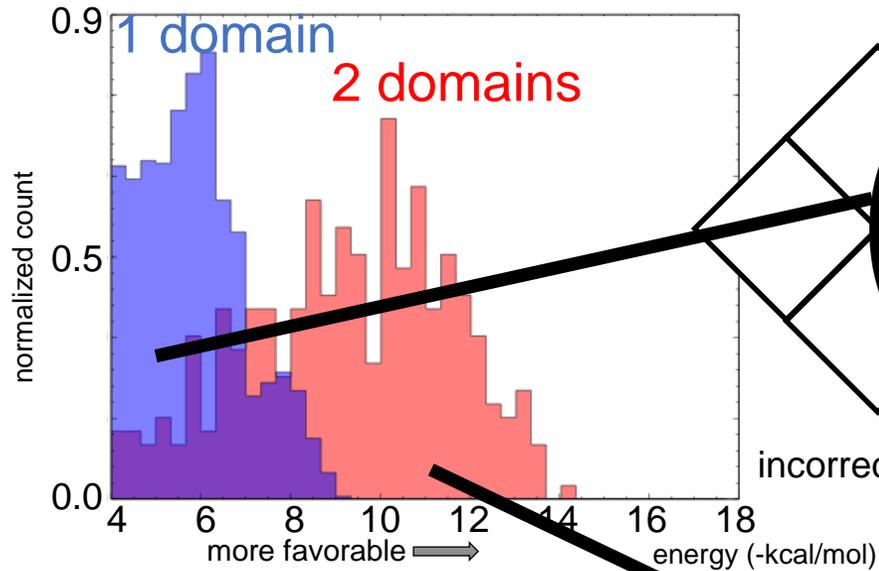


DNA sequence design

Random sequences

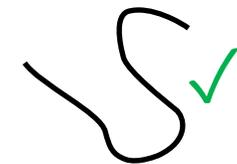
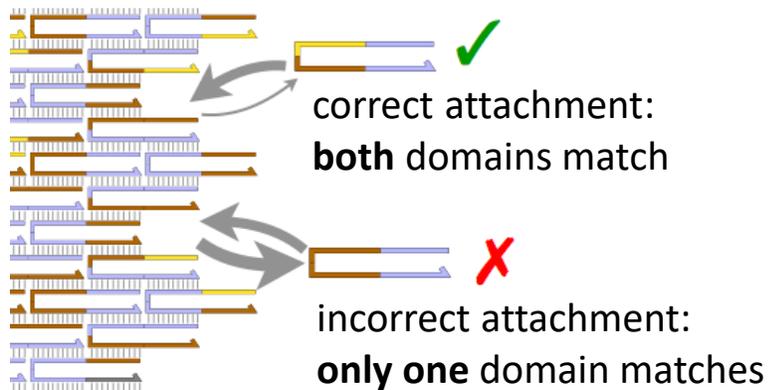
vs

designed sequences



incorrect binding

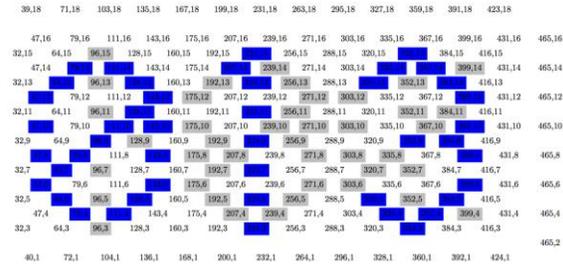
correct binding



Other goals:

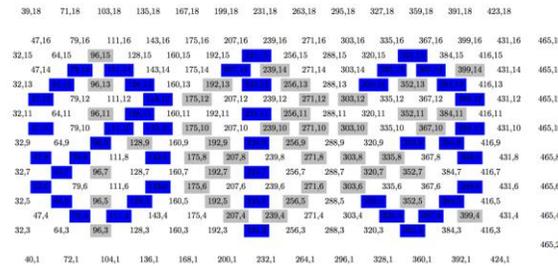
- low strand secondary structure
- low interaction between strands

Bar-coding origami seed for imaging multiple samples at once



some staples of origami seed have version with a biotin

Bar-coding origami seed for imaging multiple samples at once



some staples of origami seed have version with a biotin

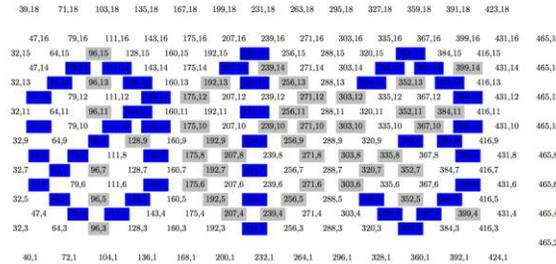
Generate plate map



```

*****
* pos3su, coding staples, no biotin (14 staples)
16H barrel stap 2
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
pos3su, coding staples, biotin (16 staples)
16H 2bit biotin staples | unzippers2 + biotin_staples_2_3
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
*****
    
```

Bar-coding origami seed for imaging multiple samples at once



Generate plate map



some staples of origami seed have version with a biotin

```

*****
* pos3su, coding staples, no biotin (14 staples)
16H barrel stap 2
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
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pos3su, coding staples, biotin (16 staples)
16H 2bit biotin staples | unzippers2 + biotin_staples_2_3
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
*****
    
```

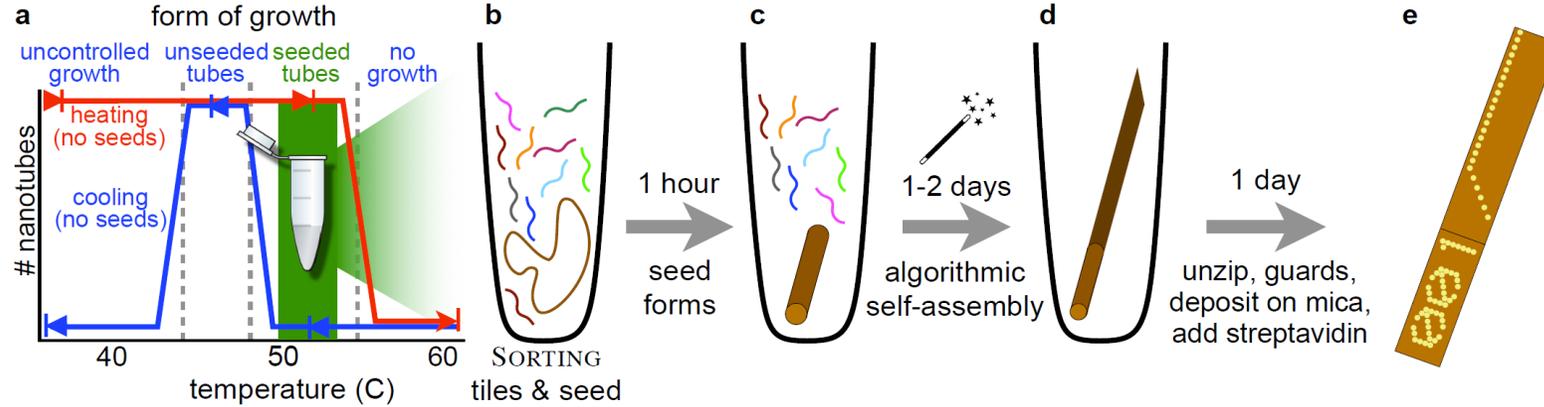
represents some combination of circuit and input, e.g.,
013 = "parity circuit, input=011010"



label with streptavidin



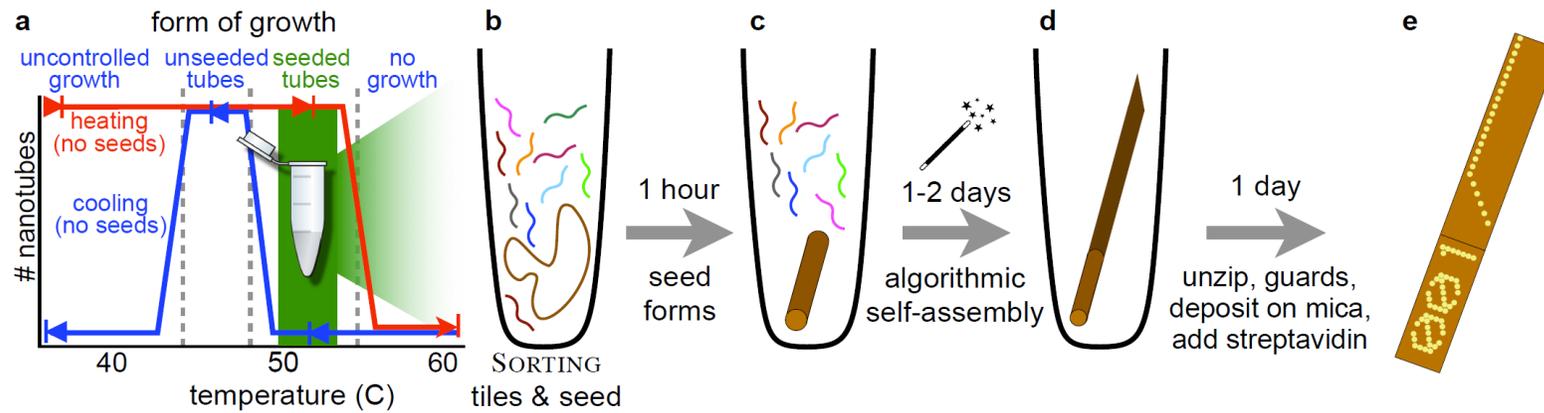
Experimental protocol



To execute circuit γ on input $x \in \{0,1\}^*$:

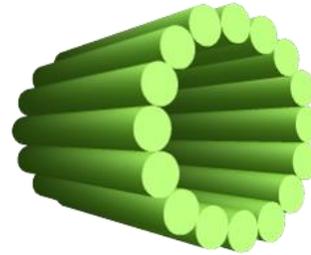
- Mix

Experimental protocol

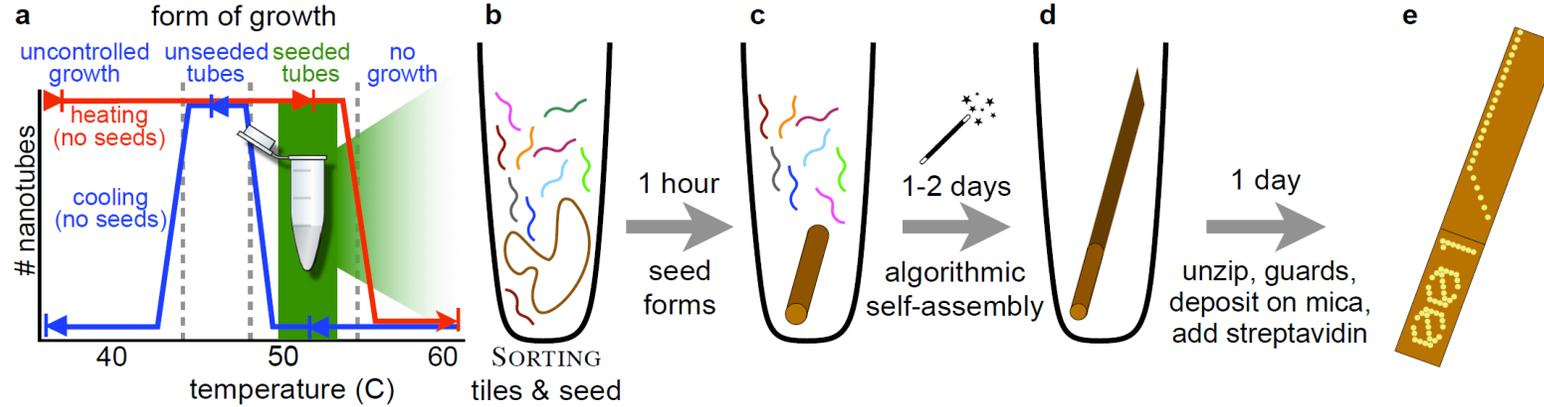


To execute circuit γ on input $x \in \{0,1\}^*$:

- Mix
 - origami seed (bar-coded to identify γ and x)

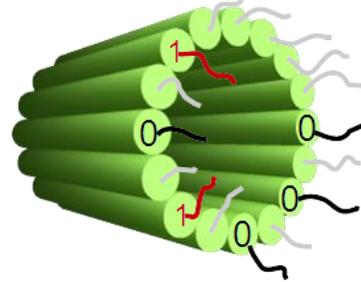


Experimental protocol

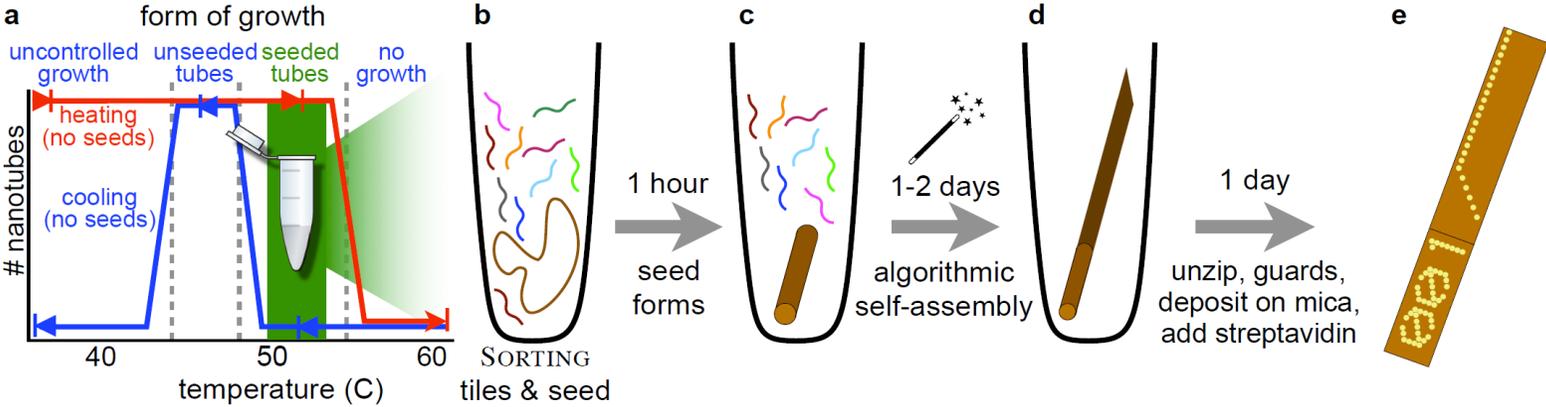


To execute circuit γ on input $x \in \{0,1\}^*$:

- Mix
 - origami seed (bar-coded to identify γ and x)
 - “adapter” strands encoding x



Experimental protocol

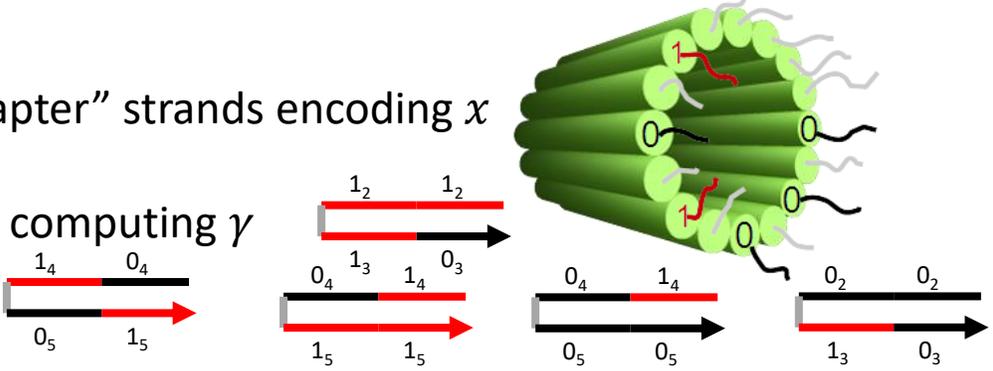


To execute circuit γ on input $x \in \{0,1\}^*$:

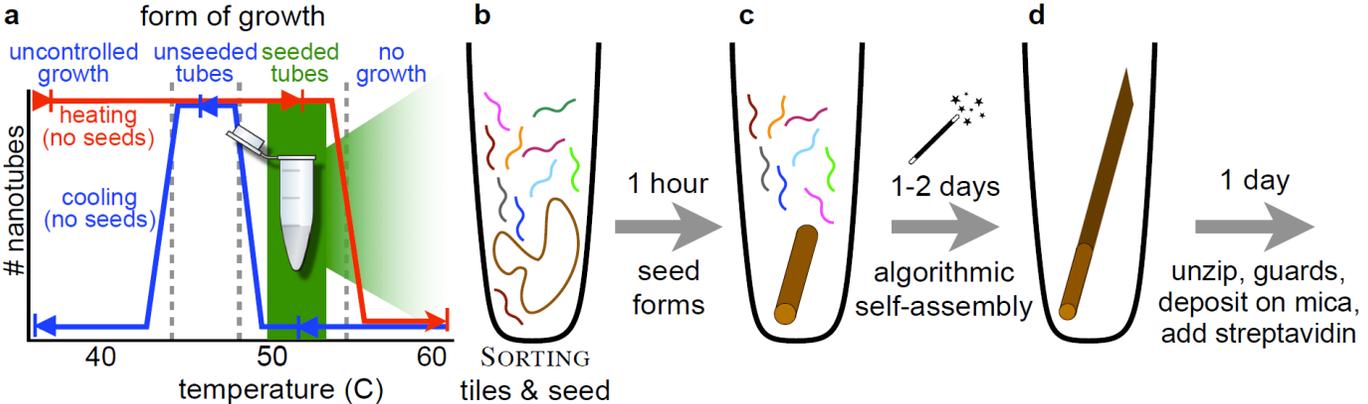
- Mix
 - origami seed (bar-coded to identify γ and x)

- “adapter” strands encoding x

- tiles computing γ



Experimental protocol

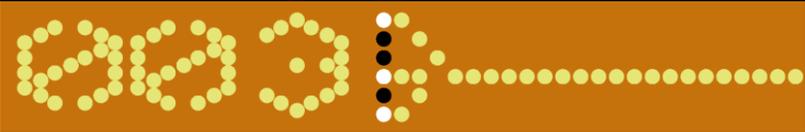


To execute circuit γ on input $x \in \{0,1\}^*$:

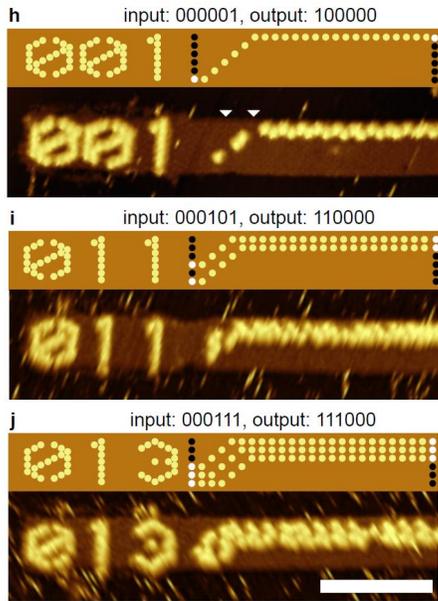
- Mix
 - origami seed (bar-coded to identify γ and x)
 - “adapter” strands encoding x
 - tiles computing γ
-
- Anneal 90° C to 50.9° C in 1 hour (*origami seeds form*)
 - Hold at 50.9° C for 1-2 days (*tiles grow tubes from seed*)
 - Add “unzipper” strands (remove seam to convert tube to ribbon)
 - Add “guard” strands (complements of output sticky ends, to deactivate tiles)
 - Deposit on mica, buffer wash, add streptavidin, AFM



Results

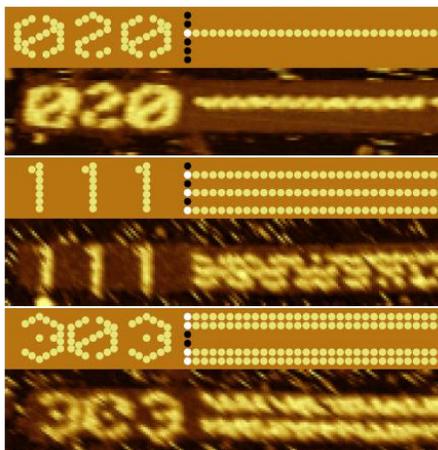
```
def test_parity():  
    actual = parity('100101')  
    expected =   
    assertEquals(expected, actual)
```

SORTING



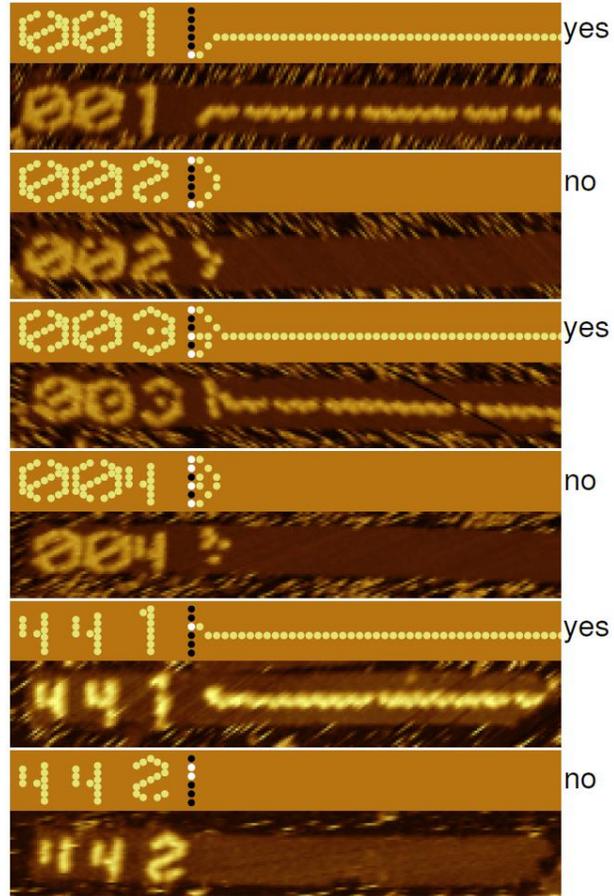
100 nm

COPY



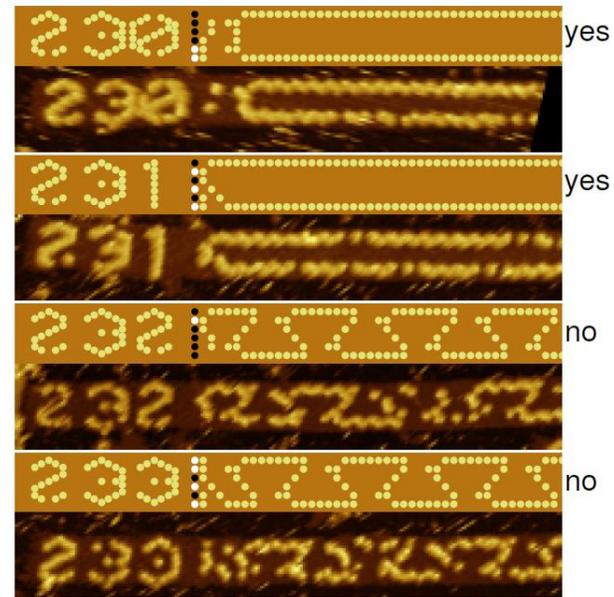
PARITY

Is the number of 1's odd?



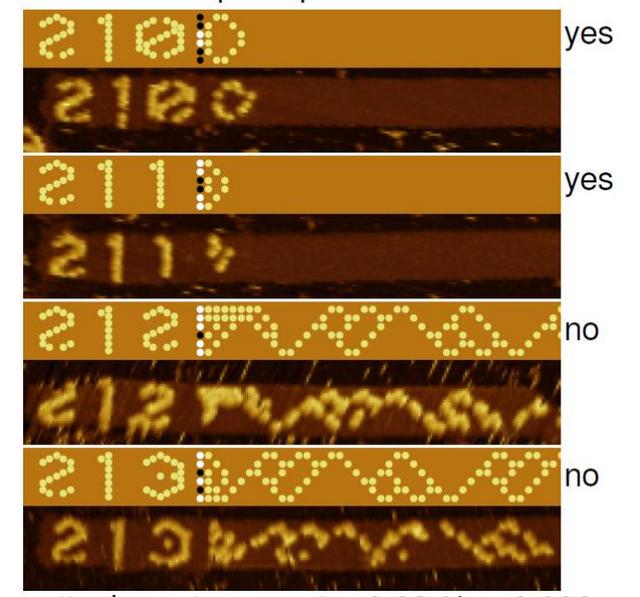
MULTIPLEOF3

Is the input binary number a multiple of 3?



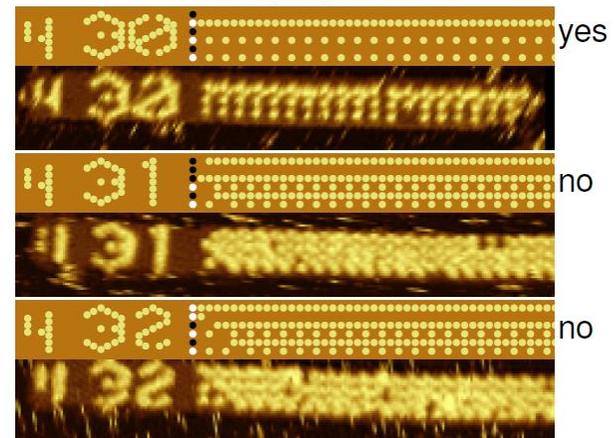
PALINDROME

Is the input a palindrome?



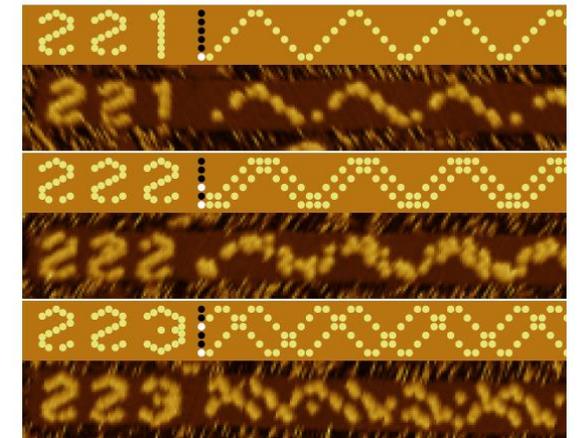
RECOGNISE21

Is the binary input = 21?

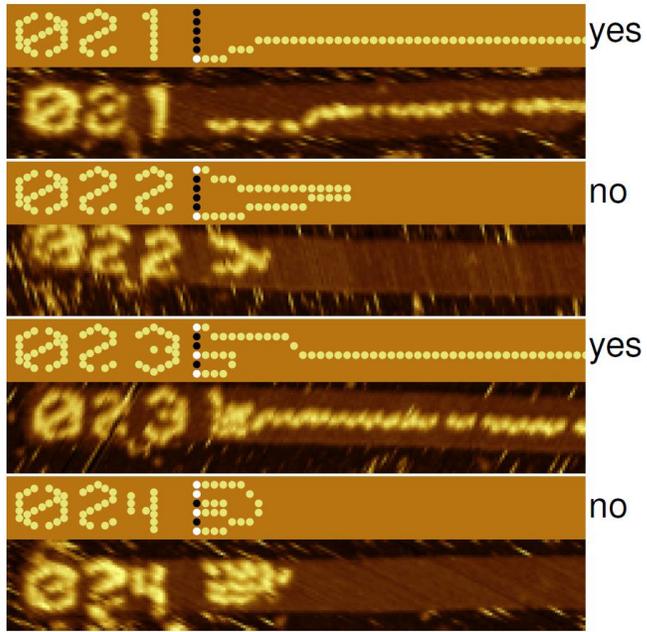


ZIG-ZAG

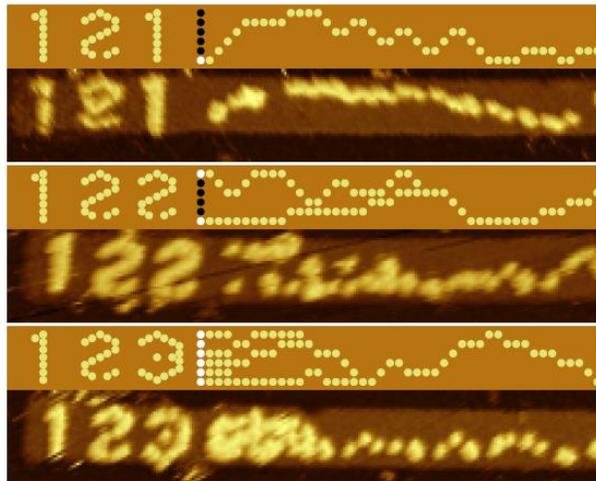
Repeating pattern



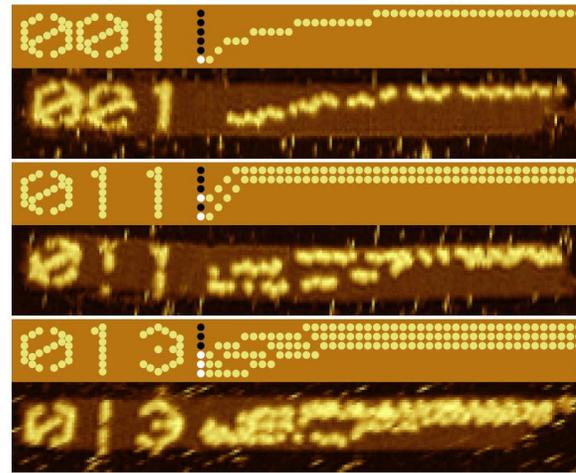
LAZYPARITY



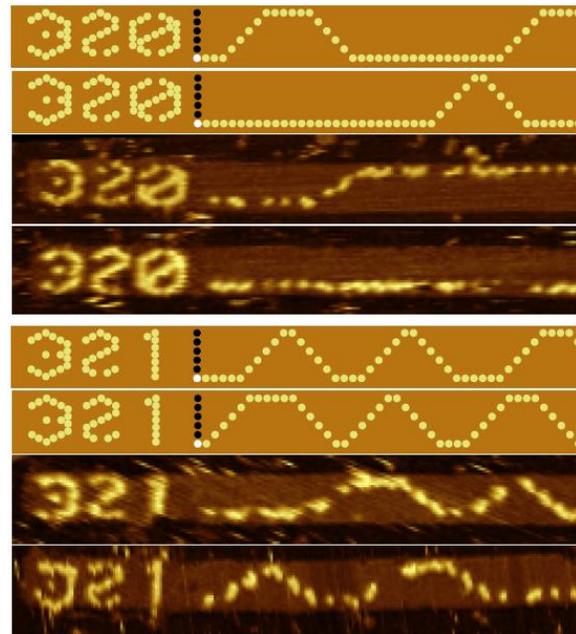
LEADERELECTION



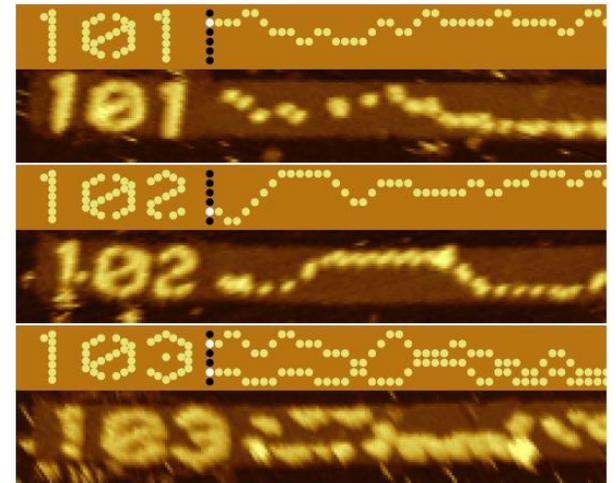
LAZYSORTING



WAVES

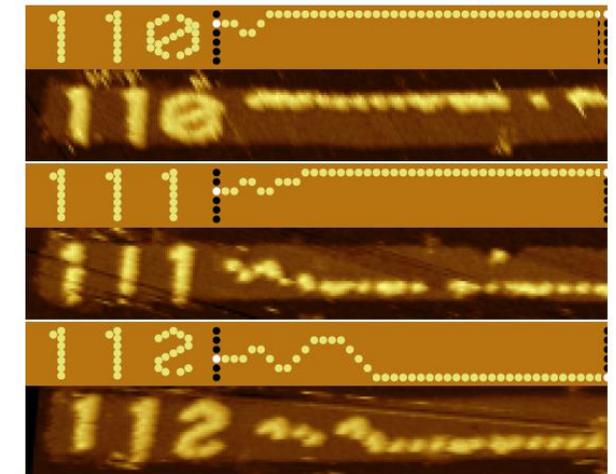


RANDOMWALKINGBIT



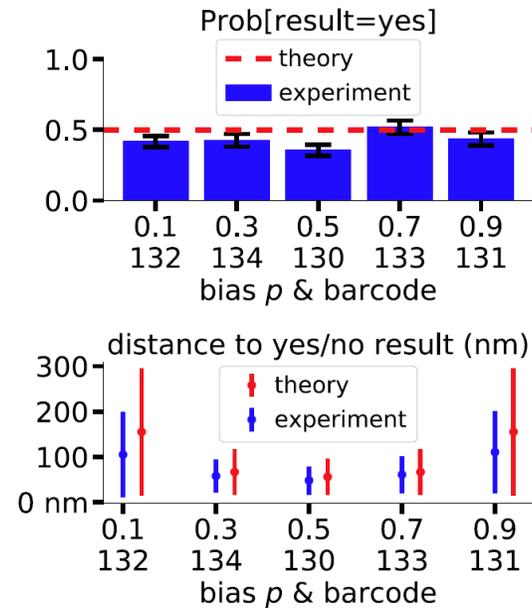
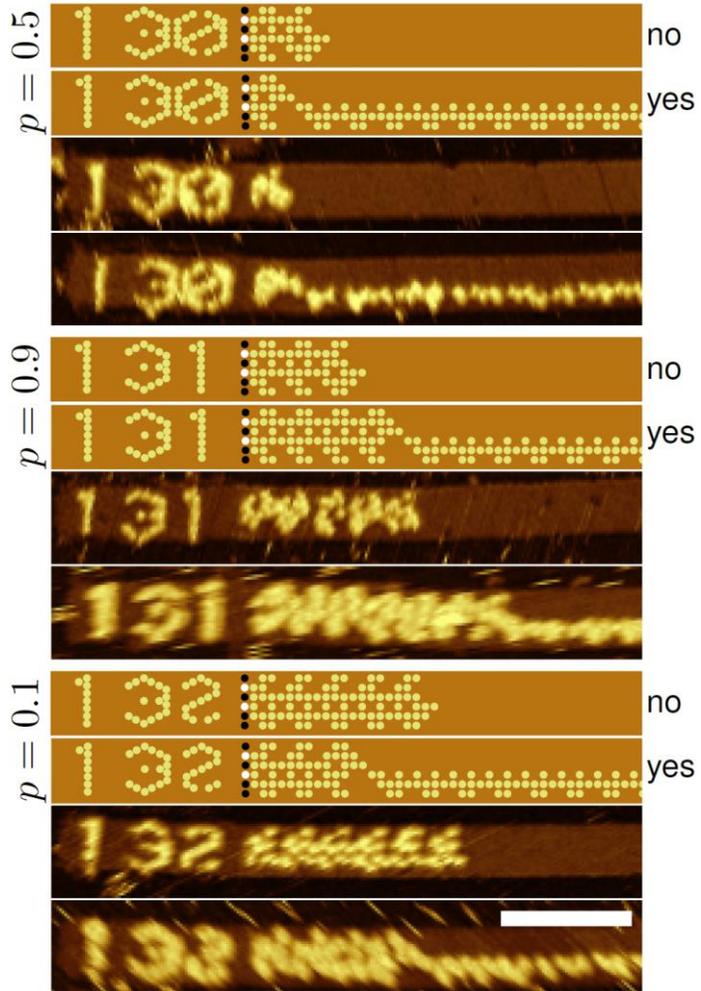
ABSORBINGRANDOMWALKINGBIT

Random walker absorbs to top/bottom



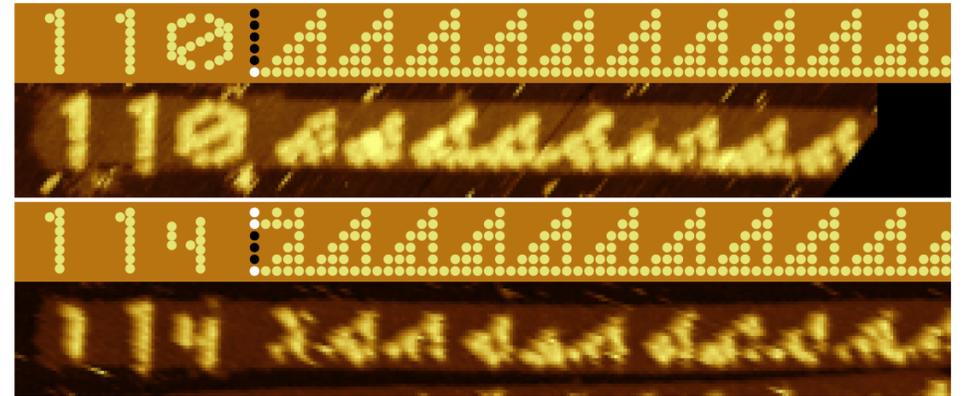
FAIRCOIN

Unbiasing a biased coin



RULE110

Simulation of a cellular automaton



Counting to 63

Circuit with 63 distinct strings



Is there a 64-counter?

No!

Proof by Tristan Stérin, Maynooth University

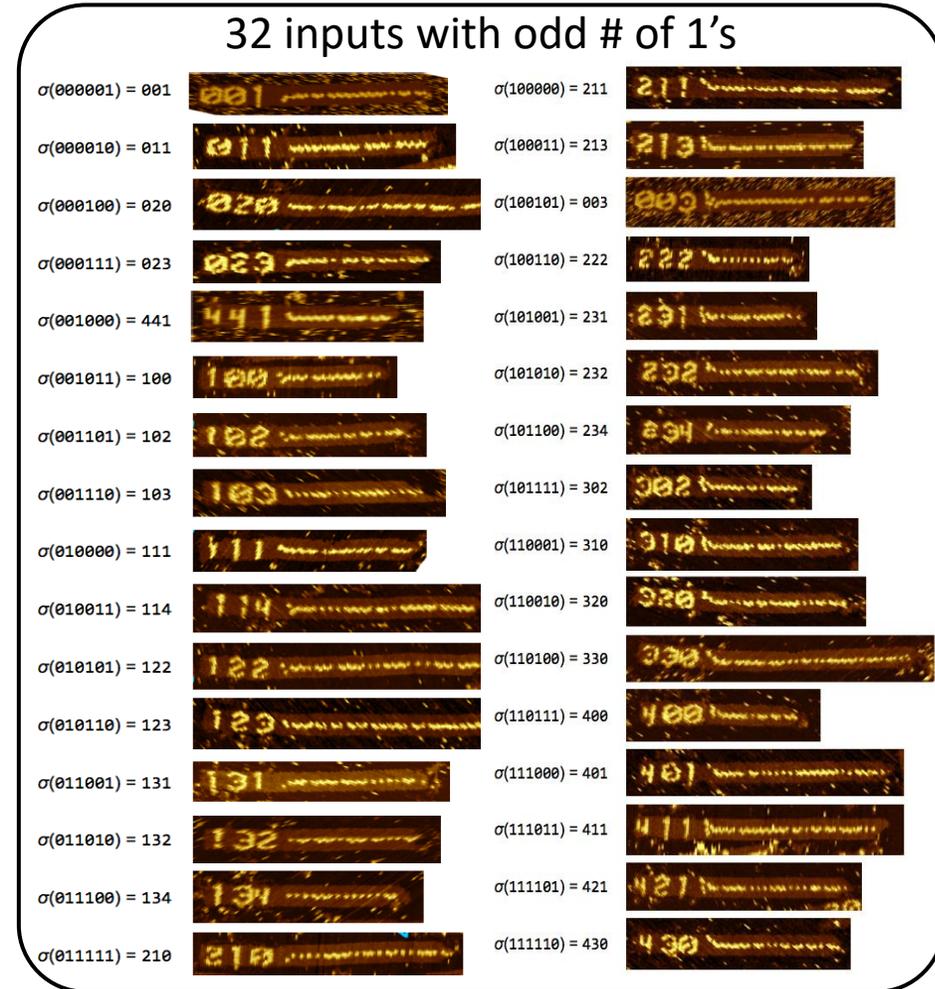
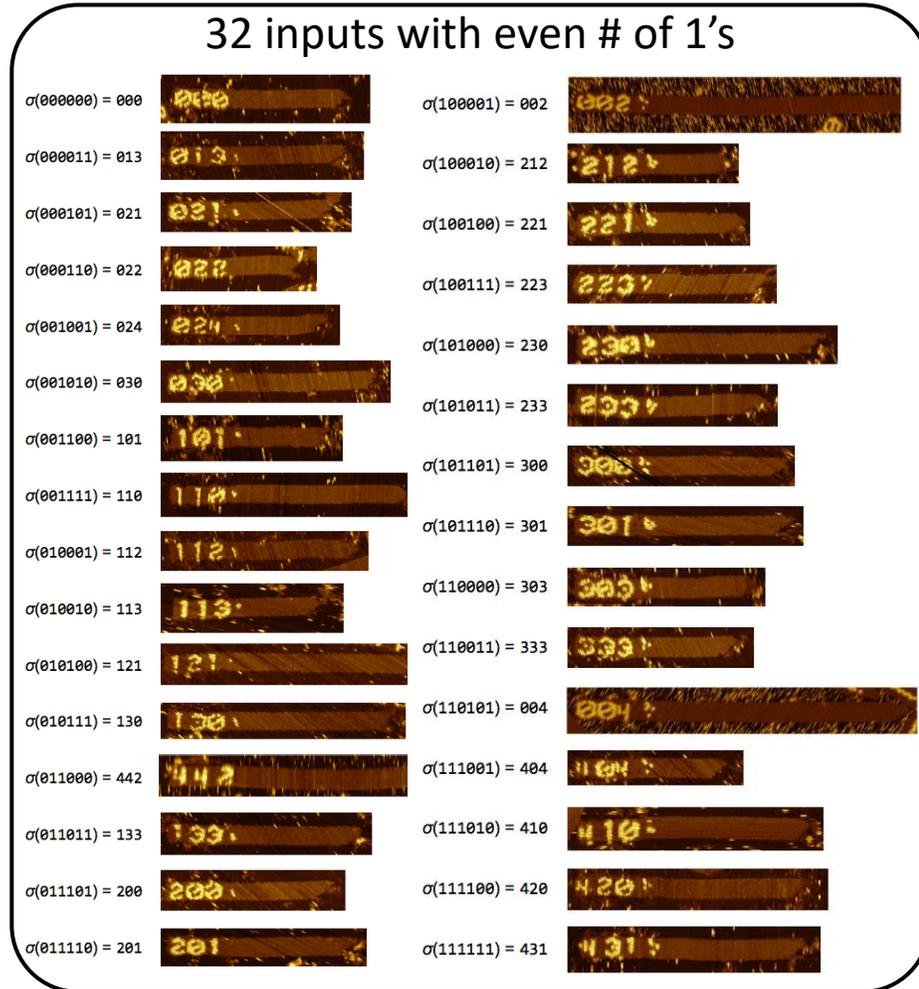
Consequence of following theorem:

No Boolean function computes an odd permutation if some output bit does not depend on all input bits.



Parity tested on all inputs

$2^6 = 64$ inputs with 6 bits

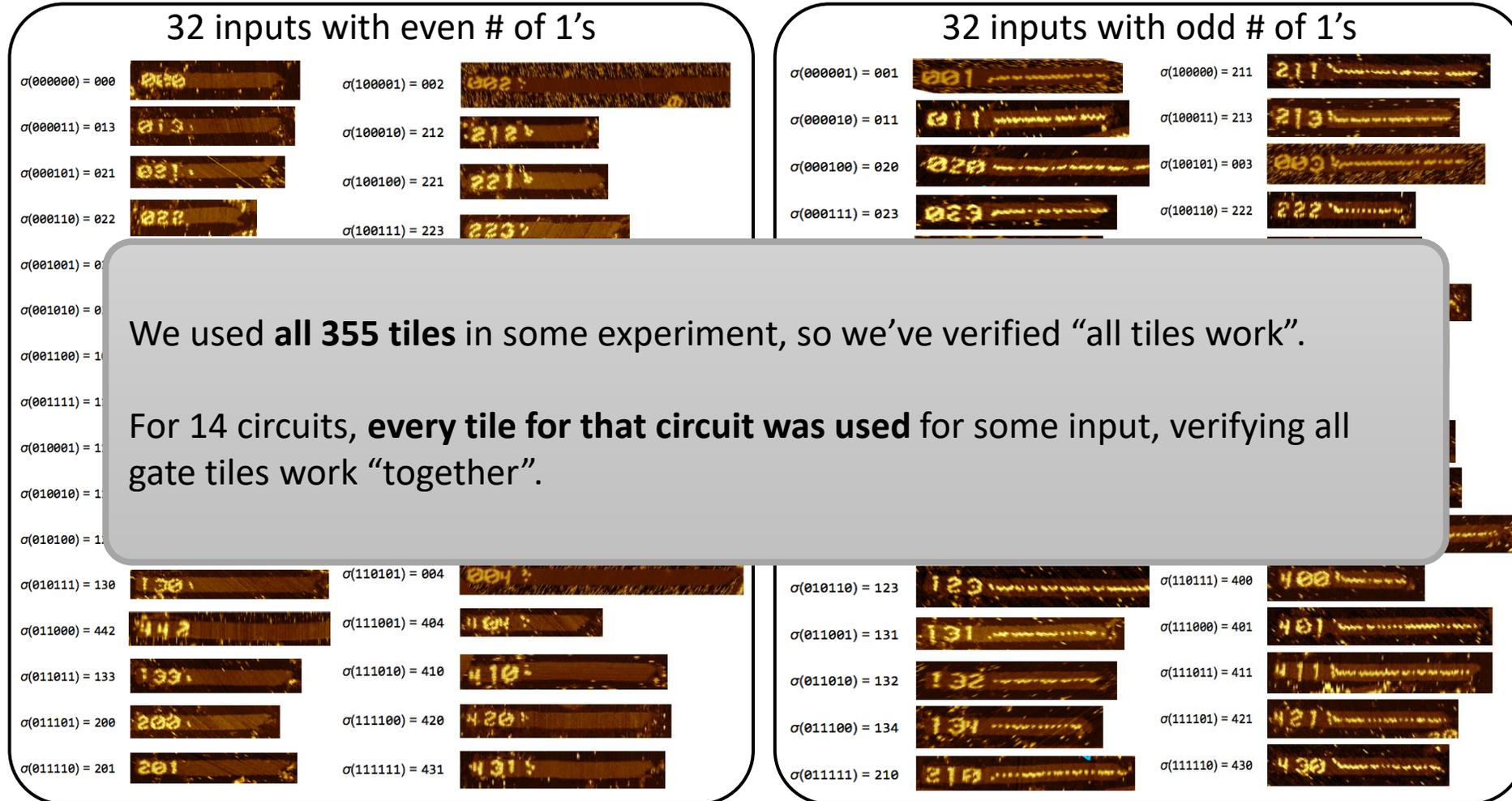


$\sigma(6\text{-bit input}) = 3\text{-digit barcode representing that input}$

150 nm

Parity tested on all inputs

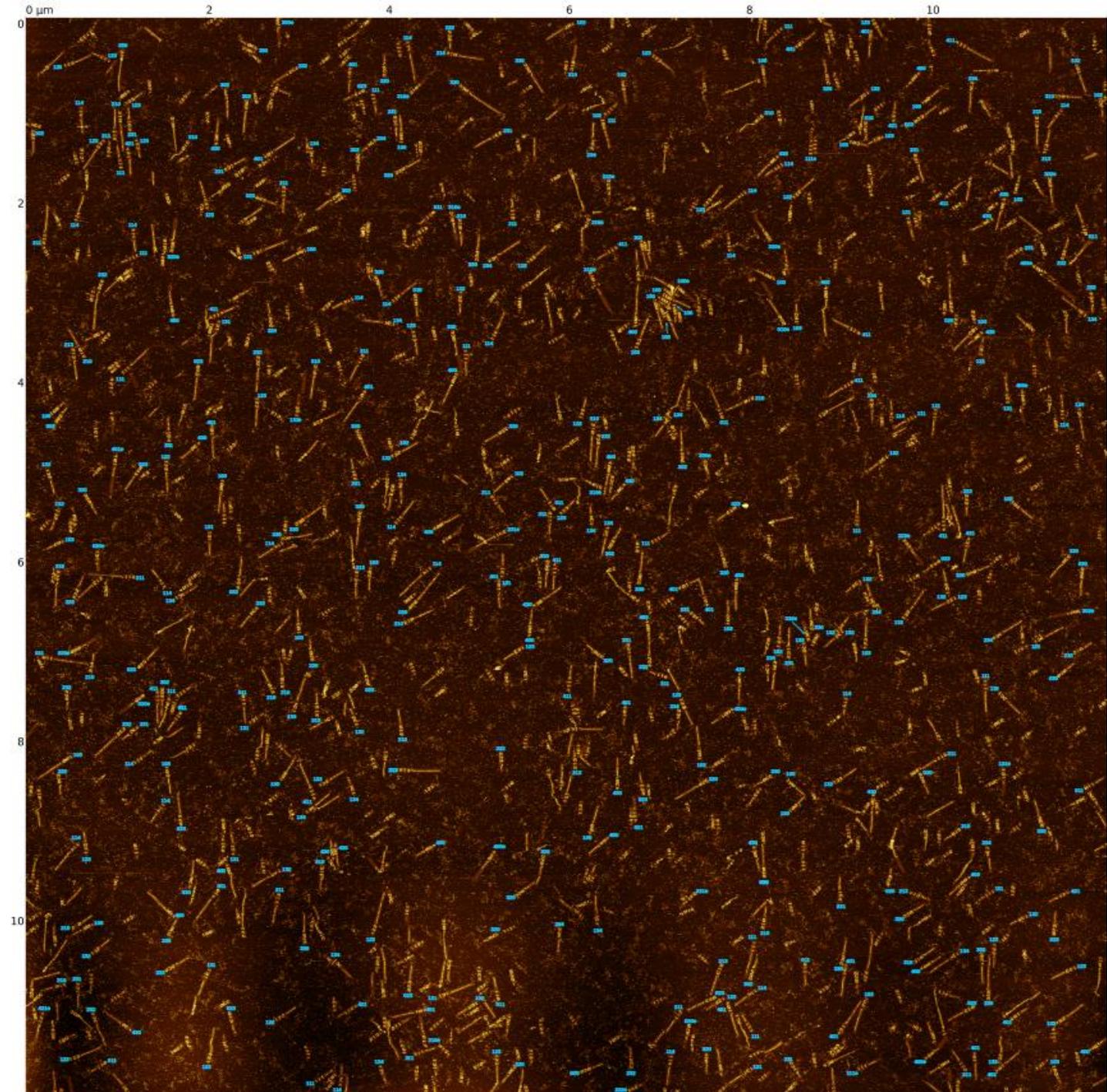
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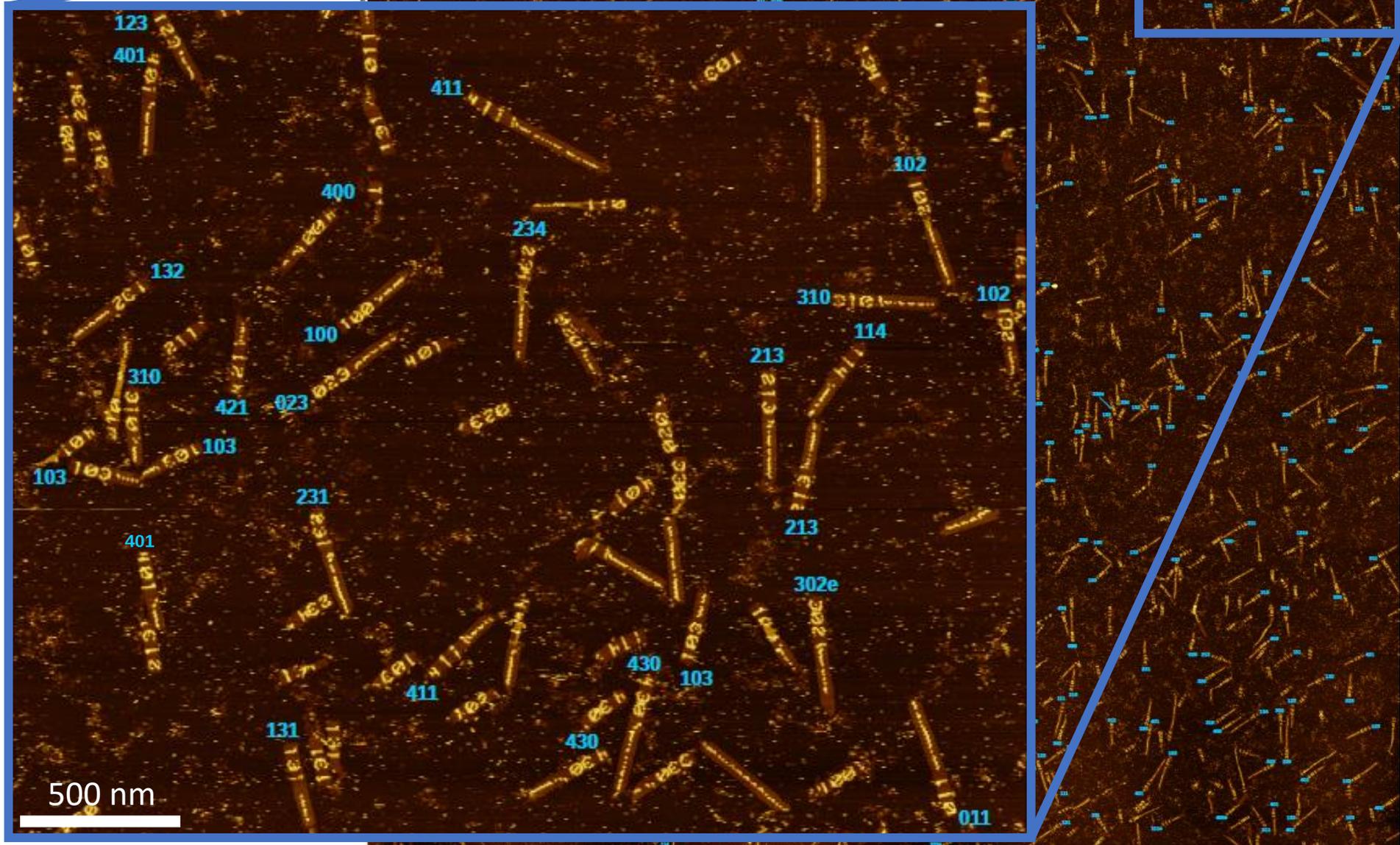
σ (6-bit input) = 3-digit barcode representing that input

150 nm

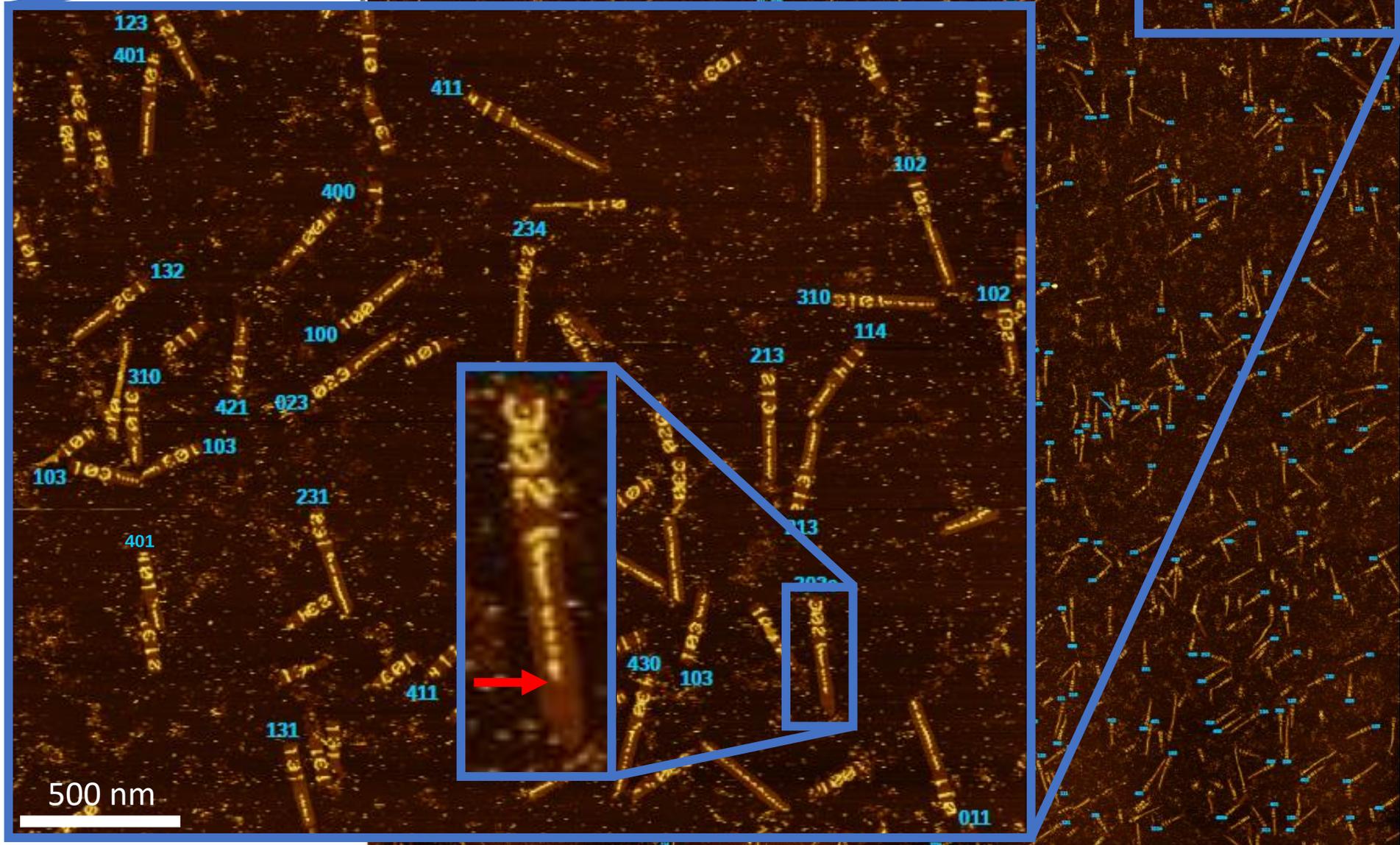
12 μm AFM image of
parity ribbons for several
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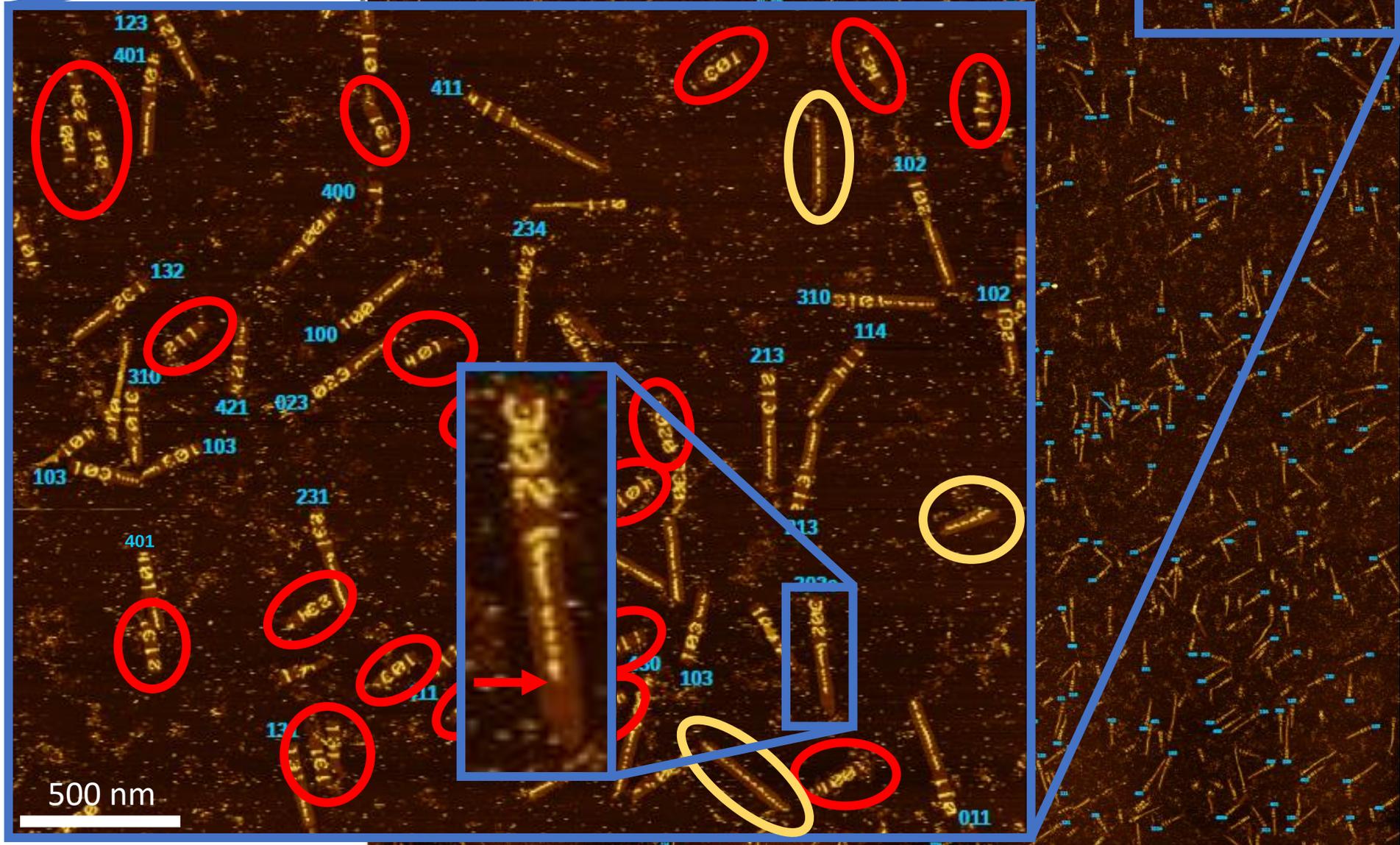
12 μm AFM image of parity ribbons for several inputs whose output is 1



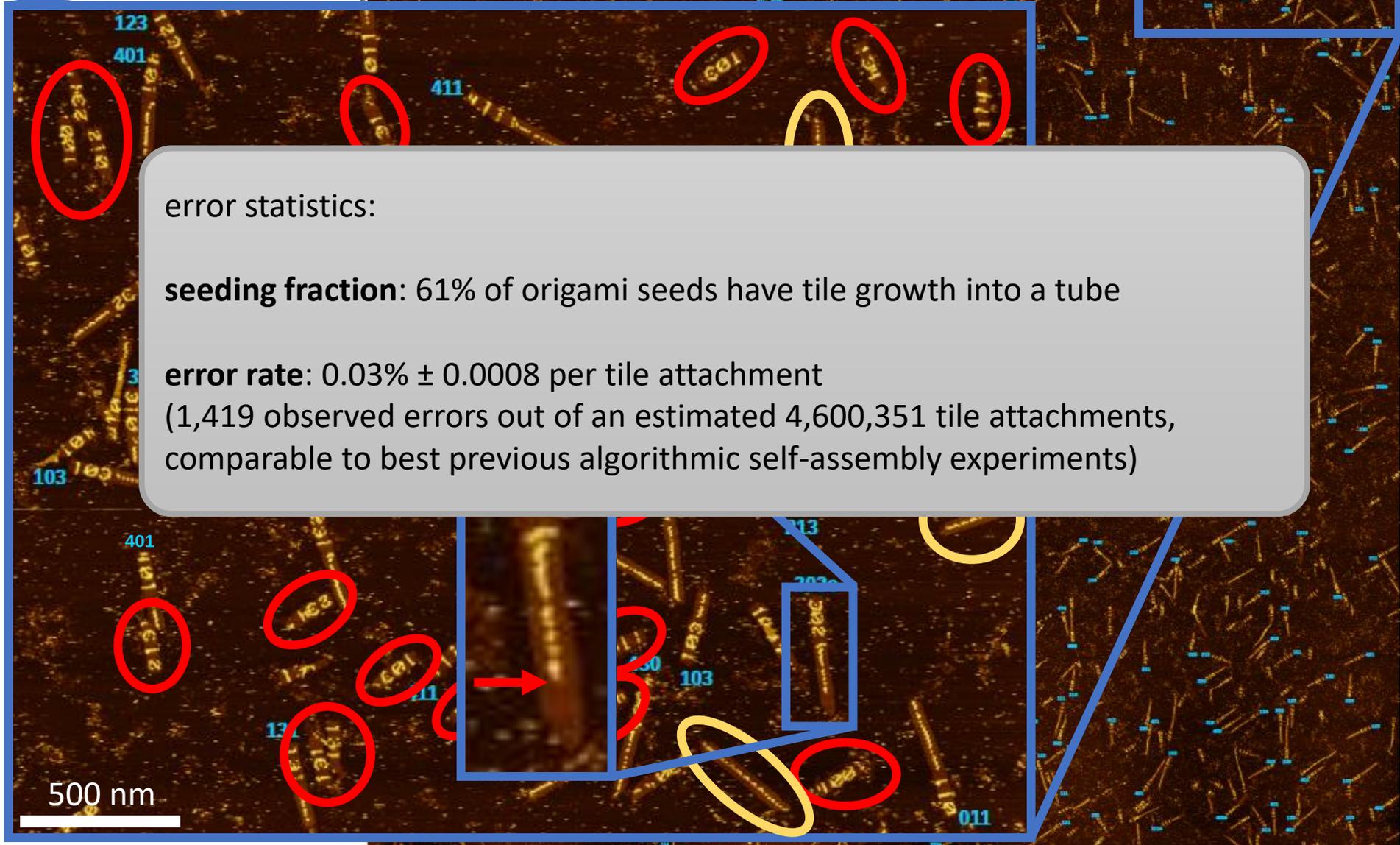
12 μm AFM image of parity ribbons for several inputs whose output is 1



12 μm AFM image of parity ribbons for several inputs whose output is 1



12 μm AFM image of parity ribbons for several inputs whose output is 1



error statistics:

seeding fraction: 61% of origami seeds have tile growth into a tube

error rate: $0.03\% \pm 0.0008$ per tile attachment
(1,419 observed errors out of an estimated 4,600,351 tile attachments, comparable to best previous algorithmic self-assembly experiments)

500 nm

What did we learn?

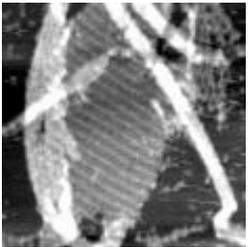
A small(ish) library of molecules can be reprogrammed to self-assemble reliably into many complex patterns, by processing information as they grow.

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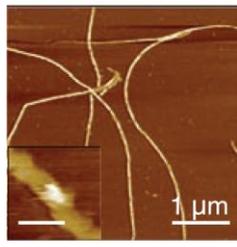
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Contrasting with other self-assembly work:

more algorithmic control
than **periodic** self-assembly



2D tile lattices
(Winfrey et al.,
Nature 1998)



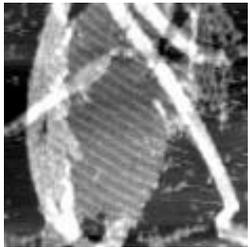
1D tile tubes
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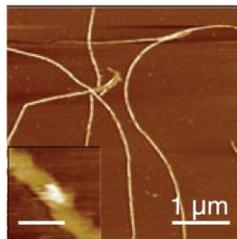
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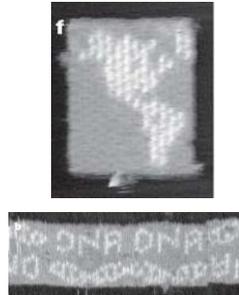


2D tile lattices
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1D tile tubes
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fewer types of DNA strands
required than **uniquely-
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DNA origami
(Rothemund,
Nature 2006)



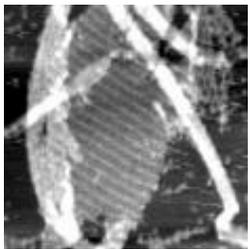
hard-coded tile
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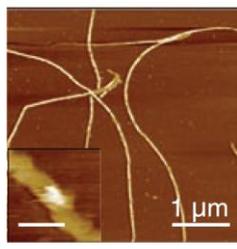
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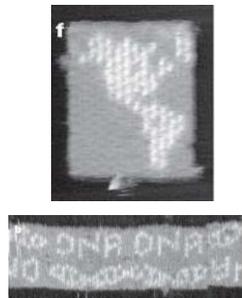


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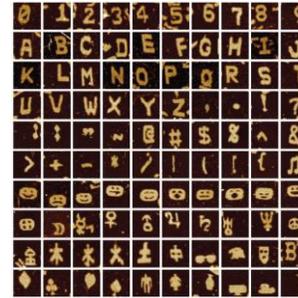


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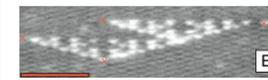
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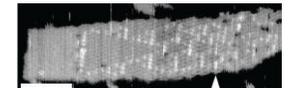
hard-coded tile
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order of magnitude more tile
types available than previous
algorithmic self-assembly

double-crossover tile lattices



(Rothemund et al.,
PLoS Bio 2004)



(Fujibayashi et al.,
Nano Letters 2008)



(Barish et al., *PNAS*
2009)



(Evans, *Ph.D. thesis*
2014)

Next big challenge: Algorithmically control shape

We “drew” interesting patterns on a boring shape (infinite rectangle)



Can we run algorithms to
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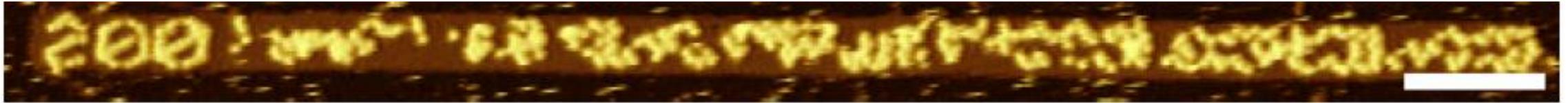


Can we run algorithms to
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Theorem: There is a single set T of tile types, so that, for any finite shape S , from an appropriately chosen seed σ_S “encoding” S , T self-assembles S .

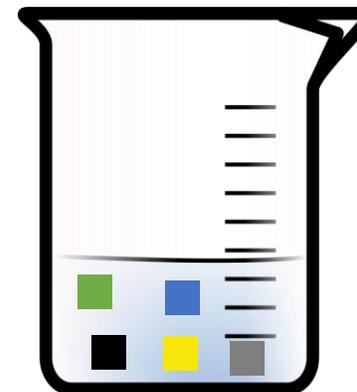
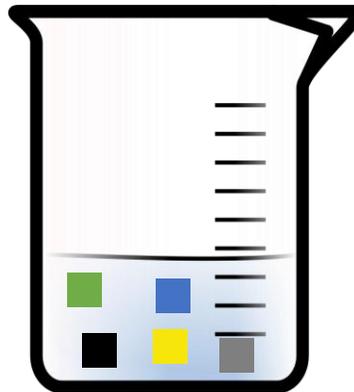
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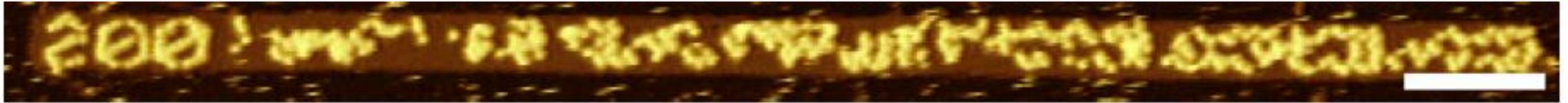
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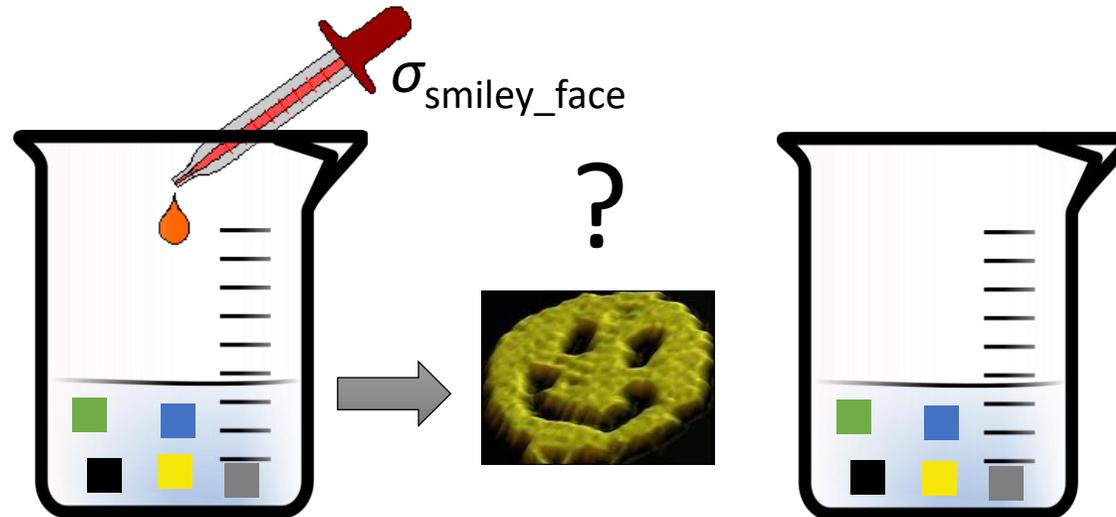
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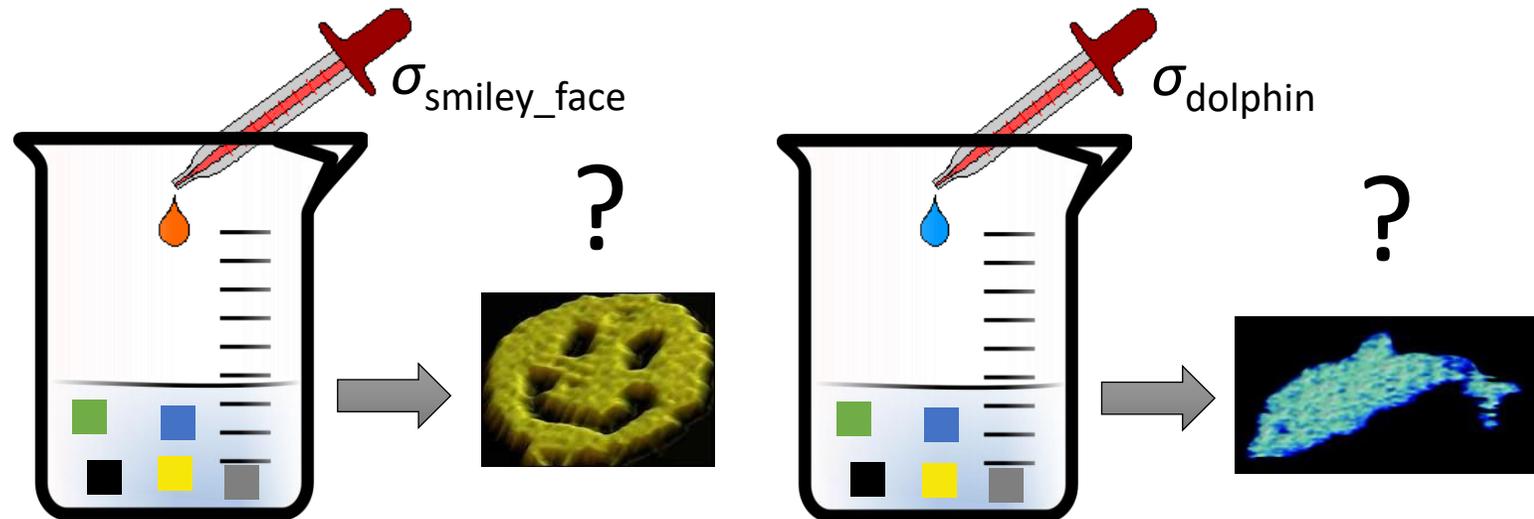
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These tiles are **universally programmable** for building any shape.